THE

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OF

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, THE FINE ARTS, MUSIC, AND THE DRAMA.

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1901.



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Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 3819.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1901.

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The Oxford Book of English Verse, 1250-1900. Chosen and edited by A. T. (Oxford, Clarendon Quiller - Couch. Press.)

A TITLE-PAGE such as that which we transcribe above is bound to attract attention. An anthology styled distinctively "the Oxford," published at the Clarendon Press, and compiled by a well-known writer of verse and fiction, naturally arouses great expectations. Is this, one asks, the ideal anthology at last? Admittedly that work was still to seek. The 'Golden Treasury' maintains its popularity, but hardly its authority—for, much as it owed to the keen sagacity of Tennyson (who may fairly be described as Mr. Palgrave's collaborator), it was and is not absolutely impeccable. It had, and has, its limitations, though the position it still holds says much for its inherent merit. As for the anthologies on the same lines which have succeeded it, they have had their vogue, and continue to occupy a place on the shelves of poetrylovers. Not one, however, can be accepted at this date as wholly satisfying. And why? Mainly because no one man, how-ever accomplished, however sympathetic, however discriminating, can be trusted to deal adequately in this fashion with the whole corpus poetarum. No one man, to begin with, can make himself master of the entire bulk of English poetry from 1250 to 1900. And even supposing such a man to exist, how can one hope from him the breadth, the serenity, the sureness of judgment, demanded from the ideal chooser of the best in so many different lines

It is, of course, always possible for the anthologist to rely upon the "consensus of critical opinion"—at least as regards English verse up to and including the days of Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley, Keats. There are certain lyrics, sonnets, and other poems in the language, concerning which people of literary culture have long ago made up their minds, and which might be included in one volume with great

advantage to students of English verse. But every new anthologist has his ambitions. He is anxious, almost feverishly anxious, to do his own choosing. Rather than reproduce nothing but "hackneyed" pieces, he is fain to go as far afield as possible. He does not realize that the best must, as a matter of course, be often hackneyed. The preface to this selection wisely and firmly remarks that "the best is the best, though a hundred judges have declared it so."

When Mr. Palgrave (and Lord Tennyson) produced the 'Golden Treasury,' the work of Campion was practically un-known, even to experts. No sooner was it made known than the experts went to the extreme of adoration, with the result that Campion is over-represented, not only in the later editions of the 'Treasury,' but in almost all the anthologies of recent years. Mr. Quiller-Couch, in the book before us, gives six pages to Campion—as many as he accords to Byron, to Fletcher, to Cowley, to Donne. And let it be said in this connexion that in the ideal anthology of English verse a sense of proportion must needs be exhibited. One star differs from another star in glory, and it is the business of the anthologist to recognize the difference. Mr. Quiller-Couch, in assigning to Tennyson four more pages than he gives to Shak-speare, five more than he gives to Wordsworth, six more than he gives to Keats, eighteen more than he gives to Burns, and twenty-three more than he gives to Byron, shows at once that his sense of proportion is not perfect. It is not as if this book—this "Oxford" book - were confined to such things as lyrics and sonnets; for it is not. Mr. Quiller-Couch selects, when he thinks proper, from long poems; and as he has thought well to include passages from the longer works of Milton and others, why has he not thought well to do the same for 'Don Juan,' and so forth, in which Byron

is at his happiest? Regarded as a wholly representative book of English verse" this volume is open to criticism. Obviously it contains a very great deal that is delighttains a very great deal that is delightful and imperishable; on that point it is unnecessary to dwell. The selections from Waller, Milton, Dryden, Sedley, Congreve, Gay, Pope, Gray, Collins, Wordsworth, Scott, Coleridge, Lamb, Campbell, Moore, Keats, Hood, Beddoes, Tennyson, Patmore, Matthew Arnold, and Miss Passetti strike us as whelly unevecontion. Rossetti strike us as wholly unexceptionable. But in his preface the compiler undertakes to give us of "the best," and of the best only. All one can say is that very much of the best is absent from the collection, and that much contained in it is by no means of the best. Of the 883 poems or passages printed by Mr. Quiller-Couch a certain proportion might profitably have been omitted. Even of the Shakspeare songs and sonnets a few could have been spared. Henryson, Dunbar, Wyatt, Surrey, Breton, Spenser, Lodge, S. Daniel, Drayton, Fletcher, Nash, Jonson, Donne, Webster, Heywood, Drummond, Herrick, Crashaw, Marvell, Vaughan, Davenant, Shirley, Suckling, Lovelace, Rochester to name only a few, and those of the older singers-from the specimens of all these something might have been taken without

hurt. There are other writers who might disappear from the volume altogether and "never would be missed." Grimald, Wever, Gascoigne, Rowlands, Reynolds, Sir R. Fanshawe, Jasper Mayne, T. Stanley, Katherine Phillips, T. Flatman, Lord Melcombe, Fanny Greville, and so forth-is Mr. Quiller-Couch really prepared to argue that these worthies are all of our poetic "best"?

Suppose that Mr. Quiller - Couch had omitted these, and had reduced the space afforded to the others above named-how happy would have been his situation, to how many whom he has utterly neglected might he have been able to do justice! Here are a few only of the men and women whom the latest of the anthologists has thought unworthy of a niche in his big temple of fame: Mathilde Blind, Thackeray, S. Butler, Charles Churchill, Lord de Tabley, Sir F. H. Doyle, Jean Ingelow, R. Bourke Marston, Motherwell, Newman, the two Procters, Rogers, Shenstone, Thomas Woolner. We do not claim for any of these writers a very high place in the poetical hierarchy, but we cannot account for their exclusion from this 'Oxford Book' when we find the Grimalds, the Gascoignes, the Fanshawes, and the Flatmans included. Why should Longfellow and Emerson and Poe and Whittier be here, and Bryant and Holmes and Lowell be absent? Why should Arthur O'Shaughnessy be represented, and Bourke Marston and Lord de Tabley ignored? Why give space to Keble and Alford, and not to Newman and Trench? Surely we might have had a single lyric by Miss Blind, by Miss Ingelow, by Miss Procter, by Rogers, by Shenstone, by Mrs. Webster-not to speak of single sonnets from others.

We would suggest, too, if Mr. Quiller-Couch should have occasion to revise his work for a second edition, that he should in certain cases reconsider selections in which he has been niggard rather than profuse, or, as it seems to us, perverse and inadequate in judgment. Here are some of these cases—namely, those of Peacock, Mrs. Hemans, Sir Henry Taylor, Praed, Sara Coleridge, R. S. Hawker, Clough, Rossetti, Locker-Lampson, Alexander Smith, Robert Lytton, James Thomson, and William Morris, of most of whom the examples are by no means characteristic or sufficient. In the instance of Rossetti, and perhaps others, the copyright difficulty probably has come in. If it has, Mr. Quiller-Couch should have said so, rather than lie under the suspicion of not appreciating some of the best poetic work of this period.

In what we have so far written we have made no allusion to that part of the anthology which seems to us by far the most open to adverse criticism; we refer to that which is occupied by the products of living writers. It is much to be regretted that the compiler should have included living writers in his scheme. With men who have been so long before the public as Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Dobson, and (say) Dr. George MacDonald, an anthologist ought not, perhaps, to go so very far astray, for these gentlemen are—each in his own way—already classics in a sense. As soon, however, as he gets beyond the contemporary verse which is hallowed by time, the compiler is apt to come to grief. He

may have every desire to be impartial, but he cannot help being swayed by his own idiosyncrasy and by the critical atmosphere which he habitually breathes. He cannot put himself in the place of posterity; he cannot even put himself in the place of the coming generation. That being so, the task of passing a sort of final judgment on contemporaries should not be attempted especially by one who is himself a writer of verse. Mr. Quiller-Couch has greatly dared, and what is the result? do not propose to object to any of his inclusions, most of which are thoroughly defensible; but how about his exclusions? Why should the venerable P. J. Bailey be forgotten, when men who owed so much to him as did Sydney Dobell, Alexander Smith - ay, and Dante Rossetti (as Rossetti spontaneously admitted)—have room found for them? Why, again, should Mr. Robert Buchanan, Mr. Gerald Massey, Mr. Symons, Mr. Phillips, and other young singers of to-day, be wholly neglected? Why recogto-day, be wholly neglected? Why recognize Mr. W. D. Howells, and show ignorance or non-appreciation of Mr. T. B. Aldrich? Sir Lewis Morris and Mr. Alfred Austin have, we assume, been omitted deliberately and of set purpose. It might be urged (if it were worth while) that Dr. Mac Donald, Mr. Watts-Dunton, Mr. Bret Harte, Mr. Dobson, and Mr. John Davidson might well have been more characteristically, as well as more fully, represented. But, in truth, the less said about this portion of the anthology the better. Mr. Quiller-Couch has produced a collection of English verse which excites at once real interest and antagonism. The proud distinction of producing one which shall be saluted promptly as unassailable both in aim and in achievement is probably beyond the reach of any one man. Meanwhile this present selection will be in many hands. We ought to add that it is published on ordinary and also on India paper. The latter form is the more desirable, and, in the leather bindings which the Clarendon Press produce so well, an enviable possession.

The Rulers of the South. By F. Marion Crawford. 2 vols. (Macmillan & Co.)

This is a book of attractive appearance. It is well printed and full of decidedly artistic illustrations, with rather a loose reference to the adjoining text. It also contains several very picturesque pages of description, where the author tells us what he has himself seen. But these are only moments of relief from his history of the two Sicilies and Malta, which he has endeavoured to tell after his own fashion. It is the fashion of the novelist, to whom accuracy is of little import provided he is picturesque and interesting; and though it is much to be desired that these qualities should also exist in the historian, there are others far more essential—that of an independent and careful study of the sources being the most important of all. This last Mr. Marion Crawford, who is perfectly candid, does not for one moment profess. He tells us he has followed the best sources-Thucydides (in a translation?), Holm, Freeman for the mediæval times, Muratori, Amari, &c. He seems never to have heard of M. Lenormant's fascinating volumes on Apulia, Lucania, and

Calabria; he never quotes Symonds; and yet these writers would have suited his purpose far better than the serious historians. But to arrange, to abbreviate, to balance these various and complicated materials would require a man of thorough training. It cannot be done by a pair of scissors and some vamping. And so the outcome is exceedingly ill-balanced, and, wherever the author ventures on an excursion of his own, full of negligences and unfortunate things. He affords but another instance how dangerous it is for a man who knows how to do one thing in literature well to attempt another without due equipment. The want of balance in the book is patent throughout. Things about which we know nothing certain, and but little that is probable, like the life of Pythagoras, are expanded into a full-blown romance. Among all the illustrations there is not one to suggest the beautiful portals, pulpits, &c., of the twelfth-century churches in Apulia and Calabria, and yet some account of these, even in the text, would have been novel and welcome to educated readers. We may specify from personal knowledge Bari.

Mistakes of detail are likewise numerous and serious. It is not our business to give a catalogue of them here. Indeed, after going through the first volume carefully, we have not thought it necessary to compare the second with the authorities. But here are some specimens. In speaking of the great lyric poets the author tells us that not a line of Bacchylides survives, and implies that Pindar, in contrast to Simonides, never took pay for his poetry. He conceives that Theocritus wrote his poems in Sicily. He thinks the Greek traders and pirates who haunted the Italian and Sicilian coasts identical with the Athenians of Phidias and of

Sophocles (p. 26).

The whole romance of the first Greek settlements is one huge anachronism. The description of Theocles and his companions arriving at the waving fields of wheat and vineyards loaded with grapes, and exchanging glass beads, coloured stuffs, and tinsel ware with the barbarous owners of sprat oil and wine, is a comical picture, more like the quality of the 'Swiss Family Robinson' than the great romance of Defoe. This episode is followed by the romance of Pythagoras, of which the writer thinks that, as each trait has been thought true by some scholar, his combination may be called probable. He opines that the story of Agathocles bears some resemblance to that of Œdipus. The only point of similarity is the exposal of the infant on account of a prophecy, a feature common to scores of Greek legends. He thinks it hard to understand how Hannibal should have been able to maintain himself so long in Calabria, when all the country round, including Sicily, was in Roman hands; "but the reader who desires an explanation of these facts can find it in any history." It is certainly not to be found in any Roman history which is known to us, and it requires a pilgrimage to the Grande Sila to make one see how Hannibal found a great natural fortress, a plateau with ample food and water to supply a small army, with steep approaches easily guarded on every side. From this vantage ground he could concentrate his force on any attack, and he gave the Romans a couple of lessons which cooled their ardour in attacking him. But

we must not dwell further on such points. Let us take Mr. Crawford on more modern ground. Illustrating the rise of political ideas in many centres simultaneously, he says that thus in science Des Cartes, Leibnitz, and Newton invented almost simultaneously the differential calculus. Has he no book of reference to tell him the dates of these men's activity? The piece of philosophy which follows, based upon the view that a Volksgeist is a great mind made up of many small ones, we will not criticize. When he asks why the Coliseum has a far stronger hold upon our feelings than the Parthenon, in order to explain the real fact that romance and beauty are not the same, many would answer by denying flatly his assumption. But how can one argue with a man who is clearly of opinion that St. Paul wrote the Acts of the Apostles "with technical correctness" as a seaman, and that Marcus Aurelius "was certainly not a persecutor" of Christians? Many of these statements are obiter dicta, not necessary to the work, but they show clearly how a mind not furnished with a proper education cannot move freely through a great and complicated historical subject without betraying itself at every turn. One of the most graceful and poetical pages in the book—and it contains not a few-is upon the papyrus brakes in the Anapus, near Syracuse. But this admirable description is marred by several pieces of false information. The writer declares repeatedly that this famous plant is now extinct in all the world in its wild or natural state. It still grows in wild plenty on the higher reaches of the Nile. He tells us that Ptolemy sent the plant as a present to Hiero (after the first Punic war was over), who planted it in the Anapus. Where he obtained this story we cannot tell. Any ordinary modern book of reference would have told him that long after the plant was extinct in the Delta the Arabs brought it from Syria to the papireto at Palermo, and thence to Syracuse.

The second volume pursues the complicated history of Byzantine, Saracen, Norman influences down to the sixteenth century, and then, skipping the last 200 years almost completely, concludes with a most interesting chapter on the Mafia of Sicily at the present day. Apart from what the author has learnt by conversation from the people, he depends for his account on the work of a local man, published last year, who was for many years chief of police at Palermo. We are greatly obliged for the reference, and many readers will send for the book, though we cannot but think, from Mr. Marion Crawford's account, that the expoliceman has sought to explain his own failure by ascribing some incredible characteristics to the organization with which he struggled for years. In fact, he denies that it is an organization, and tells us that, without meetings, without elections, without discussion of policy, the Mafia keeps its hold upon the people and attains to a system of government. Such a thing appears to us rather impossible, and we cannot but think that in this case subjective ignorance has been magnified into objective reality. What should we have said if those who were contending against the Irish Mafia in 1881 had told us, when they could not defeat it, that there was no

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organization, that the leaders were selfconstituted, and that there was nevertheless
a distinct hierarchy among them? According to Mr. Crawford's account, the policy of
the Mafia is not outrageous. Life and property are fairly safe among those who respect
it. The Government is opposed by it because by long tradition the people have
associated it with tyranny and injustice.
It is not our business to deal with politics,
home or foreign: we merely note that our
author does not say one word concerning
the Government which seeks to put down
the Mafia. If our readers will look into the
reports on the state of Sardinia, or read a
recent Italian novel called 'L'Onorevole'
(the Honourable M.P.), they may be able
to judge why the rude justice of the Mafia
holds its own.

Lieut. Col. John Haughton, Commandant of the 36th Sikhs. By Major A. C. Yate, 2nd D.C.O. Baluch Battalion. (Murray.) Here is the biography of an officer who was just becoming known in England as one who might be depended on to relieve by his conduct and bravery the gloom which was more general and prevalent than was desirable during the Tirah Expedition (1897-98). Unfortunately for the service, he did not survive the campaign.

The Haughtons have been closely connected with the East India Company: the colonel's grandfather was professor of Hindustani at Addiscombe, with a brother holding a similar position at Haileybury; and his father, Major-General John Colpoys Haughton, C.S.I., served long and meritoriously in India. As a young man he was well known in connexion with the escape from Charikar, where his conduct and Eldred Pottinger's were most gallant, and where he was severely wounded. Afterwards he held civil appointments till his retirement in 1873, when he was Com-missioner of the Kuch Behar Division. In 1845 he married Miss Presgrave; and the subject of the present memoir was born in 1852, educated at Uppingham and Sandhurst, and obtained a commission in 1871, being one of the last gazetted to the rank of ensign. His service for the most part was of an ordinary nature, and all that need be said—and those who know will admit that it is no faint praise—is that in the course of some twenty-six years' service he had established a reputation as a good regimental officer; he had also passed examinations in native languages and in Russian, a qualification too often neglected nowadays. The turning-point, however, in his career was probably in 1887, when he was appointed to the 35th Sikhs, a regiment which was then being raised. Contact with the Khalsa was clearly beneficial, and after commanding the regiment for a short time in 1893, he was transferred next year to the 36th, also a Sikh regiment. With them he served on the frontier at Bannu, Peshawar, and Kohat, whence in 1897 the regiment was sent to garrison the Samana forts, trouble from the Orakzais and Afridis being imminent. On August 27th the Orakzai force attacked the posts and worked some mischief, but wasted their time till September 12th, when the combined force attacked and destroyed the post of Saragarhi,

which was held by twenty-one Sikhs, who sold their lives dear and nobly maintained the reputation of their race. The story of the Tirah Expedition has been often told, and need not be repeated, but it is just to refer to Col. Haughton's share in Generally he and his regiment were selected for rear-guard duty, never the most agreeable, though sometimes, as in frontier war, the post of honour and difficulty, for the baggage always and retirement often invite attack. And in this duty he excelled, giving promise again and again of qualities which must have placed him high among our best leaders, and which he showed to the end when he fell gallantly holding at bay masses of the enemy who were pressing on our retiring force. By some blunder a position which commanded the line of retreat had been abandoned by our men and seized by the enemy: from it a galling fire was maintained, and the tribesmen pushed forward to attack the Yorkshire Light Infantry.

"The greater part of the Sikhs fell back, as ordered; but Haughton, followed by Lieut. Turing and four or five of his men, crossed over the Kotal to the heights on the left, where the Yorkshires were, to help them; for he saw the straits they were in. When he arrived the tribesmen were crowding in, around and within a few yards of them..... 'The behaviour of all troops was simply magnificent. Neither officer nor man had any thought of self. They were in a trap, being fired upon from the front and left. Every wounded man was picked up, and very slowly the force worked its way down. Haughton, with his adjutant Turing, two Sikhs, and two men of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, got into a commanding position on the left and covered the retirement, the two officers having both picked up rifles and ammunition. Of these two officers and four men but one (a Yorkshireman) lived to tell the tale. Their ammunition was running out; Turing and the two Sikhs were killed. Haughton told the Yorks lads to fix bayonets, and said, "We'll shoot away the ammunition we've got, and then show them how British soldiers die." He was immediately afterwards hit with a bullet in the head, just behind the ear—absolutely painless—and he fell, like the grand soldier and gentleman he was, in endeavouring to save others...... The enemy sent the body to Mamanai unmutilated."

This tribute might partly be out of respect for Haughton's bravery, but it is more directly traceable to General Westmacott's conduct a few days before in restoring with respect the body of a Pathan to his relations, accompanied by a message that this was "the way we always treated the dead, and the way they ought to be treated. This judicious act bore good fruit," for not only was Haughton's body sent in, but when the general sent out to bring in the dead, twenty-two bodies were found, not one of them mutilated.

That is the story, and it is worth telling; but it need not have occupied much more than half the space to which it has been expanded. Some fifty or sixty pages of ancestry—which can scarcely interest any save near relatives, to whom their contents are probably known—might with advantage have been omitted; and numerous divergences on all manner of subjects, from the somewhat undignified figure cut by the Afghan Boundary Commission under Sir Peter Lumsden, about the time of the

Penjdeh incident, to musings on the Diamond Jubilee, the Peace Conference, the wars since and their value as training for the nation, might well have been spared. Nevertheless, the book is worth reading, and many of the author's ideas, though occasionally somewhat crudely expressed, are sound and deserve attention. The illustrations are numerous and interesting, and there are three maps, sufficient for those who know the surrounding country, but to others not very informing. Type, paper, and binding all deserve praise.

The Story of Florence. By Edmund G. Gardner. (Dent & Co.)

WE take the name of this book from the title-page; to judge from the cover, it seems, like the White Knight's song, to be called something else. That, however, is comparatively unimportant: under whatever title, Mr. Gardner has put together almost the ideal book for an intelligent visitor to the famous Tuscan city. Florence is, of all the historical towns in the world, that one of which the material fabric is-or was till recently-the most bound up with its older history. The visitor to Milan has little occasion to recall Visconti or Sforzas; at Naples Vesuvius and the lazzaroni occupy more of his thoughts than the Augevin kings; at Rome, even at Athens, it is the antiquary rather than the historian who is lord of the situation. But Florence, owing no doubt to its literary supremacy, is peopled with the ghosts of men and the memories of events; and whoever wishes to understand and enjoy the place must be at the trouble of making himself acquainted with at least some three centuries of its history.

Mr. Gardner has done wisely, therefore, in making the history the main thread of his book, and treating the topography, and to some extent the art, as subsidiary to this. The history, especially during the period when the republic was taking shape, is complicated, and the issues are not easy to distinguish; yet it is just this period to which every one's mind first turns at the mention of the name of Florence, and these issues which are most inseparably associated with the career of her greatest citizen. All readers will therefore be grateful to Mr. Gardner for the extremely clear and accurate narrative which he has given of the origins of Florence and the stormy times in which-first as Guelfs and Ghibellines, then as Blacks and Whites - the antagonistic elements in the commonwealth were struggling for the mastery. The various elaborate constitutions, to which Dante alludes with sarcasm, are explained more intelligibly than in any other English book with which we are acquainted; and nothing is omitted which can show the connexion of the political or commercial sides of life with the development of the town. Of course, no survey of this kind can be unmixed with regrets. Of late years especially Florence has found it necessary, in the interests of future generations, to part with a good deal that was consecrated by association with or inheritance from the past; but what is a city to do? It can hardly be ex-pected to fossilize itself for the benefit of the foreign sightseer. Mr. Gardner takes a reasonable view of this matter, and is not

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prepared to encourage "those folk who make a point of sneering at everything done in Florence since the unification of Italy." When we say that this phrase occurs in connexion with some words of praise for the road that has taken the place of that steep footpath to Samminiato in which Dante found a comparison for one of his purgatorial stairways, it will be seen that our author's toleration is wide.

Mr. Gardner is, however, nothing if not broad-minded. He has, for example, none of the superior person's sentimental horror of tyrannicide—"If I kill you, it's nothing; but if you kill me, by jingo it's murder," as Leech's special constable observed to the big Chartist—and says plainly that Galeazzo Maria Sforza, Alessandro dei Medici, and, if we mistake not, one or two more, deserved

all they got.

The story of Savonarola is well and very fairly told, Mr. Gardner's sympathies being evidently with him. We do not remember to have seen quoted before the story which Botticelli's brother, Simone Filipepi, told of the tribute of regret which the most brutal of the Frate's Florentine persecutors, Doffo Spini, paid in after years to his memory. If true, it is a remarkable testimony in his favour.

In a compendium of this kind a few inaccuracies or doubtful statements are almost certain to escape the writer and be caught by the pedantic critic. Where did Mr. Gardner, or rather Prof. del Lungs, find authority for his statement as to the division of the Cerchi family into "Black" and "White"? Villani appears to know nothing of any "Black" Cerchi; for the passage (viii. 41) which might seem to contain a reference to them is obviously corrupt, and there is no need to take the words bianchi (which is not in the first edition) and neri otherwise than in their usual sense.

In the motto to Fra Angelico's 'Annunciation' we would suggest that pretereundo does not mean "by negligence." Also, the "art" of Calimala was surely named from the street in which it had its headquarters, and not, as seems in one place to be implied, the street from the "art." And is not the first syllable of "Or San Michele" horreum rather than hortus? We are aware that the older people speak of "San Michele in Orto," but was not that the first name, superseded by "Horreum Sancti Michaelis" when the grain-market was established?

Mr. Gardner has all the latest (probably not the last) lights on the authorship of pictures. He is quite certain that the Bargello portrait, not of Dante, was not painted by Giotto; and that Cimabue did not paint, nor the people carry in pro-cession, the famous 'Madonna' of the Rucellai Chapel. But we may point out that a comparison between the date of Charles of Anjou's visit to Florence and that of the laying of the first stone of Santa Maria Novella does not throw much light, one way or the other, on Vasari's accuracy. The anecdote of the king's visit to the studio and that of the procession to the church with the picture are two distinct and separate stories. Charles may have seen the picture in 1267, and it may have been carried to the church in 1280 or thereabouts all the same. If it was taken away, and a Sienese picture substituted for it, is

it not a little curious that, in so talkative and reminiscent a place as Florence, all records of the transaction should have been lost by Vasari's time?

Old English Glosses, Chiefly Unpublished. Edited by Arthur S. Napier. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)

This is not a very large book, but the amount of labour which it clearly shows is enormous, and its importance as a contribution to knowledge is, without doubt, extraordinary. It contains over nine thousand glosses-that is to say, interlined renderings of words in Latin texts, taken from fortyseven different MSS., from which (with insignificant exceptions) they have been directly transcribed by the editor himself. Prof. Napier states that he has examined each MS. with such minute care that he feels himself justified in believing that none of the glosses written in ink has been overlooked. The glosses which are merely scratched on the parchment he does not profess to have systematically included, though, in fact, a large number of them are included. How much is implied by such an exhaustive search can only be understood by those who have some acquaintance with the minute and often faded handwriting of the glosses. It must be remembered, also, that work of this kind involves a great deal of labour which has no visible result. There is nothing to show, for instance, for the pains expended in the decipherment of glosses which, when read, have proved to be not Old English, but Latin; and Prof. Napier states that, in order to render his collection of unpublished material as complete as possible, he has searched carefully through many MSS. without finding in them a single Old English gloss. He mentions in his preface that two glossed MSS. were discovered by him too late to be available for the book.

The mere collection of the material, however, laborious as it has been, is only a portion of the task which Prof. Napier has accomplished. As the glosses were intended for the guidance of readers of the texts, their writers often thought it sufficient for their purpose to give only the first two or three letters of a word, the reader being presumed to be able to supply the rest from his own perception of what was required by the context. In most of the MSS. used in this volume the glosses were copied from those contained in other MSS., and scribal errors of the most perplexing kind are of constant occurrence. In many cases, also, the glossators rendered only the contextual sense of the Latin word, or mistook its meaning altogether. Hence, if Prof. Napier had merely printed these glosses as they stand, without elucidation, a considerable number of them would have been useless or misleading as a guide to the knowledge of the Old English vocabulary and semasiology. In his foot-notes the editor has endeavoured, so far as possible, to explain the meaning of the abbreviated and blundered forms, and, with the help of the Latin context, to point out the origin of the free or erroneous renderings. Of course, he has not been able to solve all the difficult problems presented by the glosses, and in all probability some of them will never be solved at all. In

the vast majority of instances, however, he has been successful, and it is rarely indeed that he offers an explanation which is not entirely convincing. Each of the glosses is accompanied by a reference to the page and line of the best or most accessible edition of the Latin text in which the glossed words occur, so that the student may readily obtain for himself whatever additional light can be derived from an examination of the context. At the end of the volume are an alphabetical index of the Old English words (in which those not recorded in Dr. Sweet's dictionary are marked with an asterisk), a list of "doubt-ful and spurious forms," with references to the notes in which they are discussed, and an index of Latin words. The introduction includes a description of the MSS., an investigation of the relationship of those collections of glosses which are derived from a common source, and an examination of the dialectal peculiarities of some of the glossators.

By far the larger portion of the MSS. from which these glosses are taken are copies of works by Aldhelm, whose pedantically ambitious vocabulary was naturally found greatly in need of this kind of elucidation. The largest collection of glosses, numbering over 5,500, is taken from the Bodleian MS. Digby 146, the Old English portion of which was copied from the same original as the Brussels MS. which yielded the well - known Aldhelm glosses, published first by Mone and afterwards by Bouterwek in Haupt's Zeitschrift In many cases the two copies serve to illustrate or to correct each other. Most of the remaining MSS. are preserved either at Oxford or in the British Museum; a few are at Cambridge, three or four in other places in Great Britain. The only glosses—less than forty in all—for which Prof. Napier has had to depend on copies made by others are from two MSS. in the Vatican.

The attention of scholars will naturally be directed in the first instance to the additions which the newly published glosses make to the known Old English vocabulary. The number of words that are marked in the index with an asterisk as not in Sweet's dictionary, or as occurring in a sense different from that there given, is over three hundred. Among those which are of interest as having representatives in modern English are agnere, owner; elegreouan (literally "oil-greaves"), rendering the Latin napta; flanc, flank; beorhtnian, to brighten; foreloce, forelock. The number of new words, however, does not fully represent the value of the lexical information contained in the volume, as the fresh light thrown on the meaning of words already known must often be considerable. Prof. Napier has furnished several valuable corrections of the mistakes (often excusable or unavoidable) of Old English lexicographers. Some of these are very curious. A misreading of the gloss "mitra, hufan, tigera," where the last word is a corruption of the Latin tiara, has given rise to the imaginary adjective "bufantig, high," which appears in the dictionaries of Leo and Hall. The plausiblelooking "afgydel, superstitious," given by Leo, was taken from the Brussels glosses, which have afgidelum as a rendering of superstitiosa (cultura). The Digby copy pub-

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lished by Prof. Napier has what is beyond doubt the correct reading, idelum, feondlicum afgælpum. Some dictionaries (not Bosworth-Toller or Sweet) have a word bydel, explained as "a vessel." It is simply the ordinary word meaning messenger, used in a gloss to render the figurative sense of vas in its

application to St. Paul.

We venture to offer one or two conjectures as to the meaning of corrupt forms which Prof. Napier has left unexplained. The gloss ieora, which renders extorqueo, looks like a miscopying of ic $\delta ra[we]$. For fapelas, "histriones," Prof. Napier doubtfully suggests fipeleras; can it stand for [lea]sæ pelas? The explanation given of the gloss "condito, " (elsewhere gebryrde), does not seem gebryde" (elsewhere gebryrde), does not seem wholly convincing. In spite of the parallel "condiantur, brysdde," cited from the 'Liber Scintillarum,' it is not easy to believe that brysan, "to bruise," can have developed a secondary sense "to season (food)." The true reading may perhaps be gebrywdre (from briwan). With Dr. be gebrywdre (from brīwan). With Dr. Sweet and other scholars, Prof. Napier explains fyrenhycge, "meretrix," as an etymologizing corruption of fyrenicge, formed from fyren, "crime," with the feminine suffix -icge. But this hardly accounts for the specific sense: one may guess that the word was evolved by popular etymology from the Latin fornicari. This supposition will explain the occurrence of a masculine form fyrenhycga as a gloss on adulter. In the index Prof. Napier follows Sievers in regarding hettende (hitherto known only in the substantival form hettend) as the participle of hatian, the form being accounted for by the supposition that the verb belonged originally to the third conjugation. Two of Prof. Napier's new glosses, "insectans, hattende," and "insectationes, onhettinga," seem, however, to show that the word is the participle of a verb of the first conjugation meaning "to persecute," so that the sense of the substantive would be "persecutor, active enemy." The words cannot well be due to mishearing of ehtende, onēhtinga.

A work of this nature and extent cannot be expected to be entirely free from misprints, but we have been able to discover two or three only, and those of a very trivial kind. In the index there is a reference to a note on the gloss æsceue, "vastaretur," but the note itself has somehow or

other been omitted.

We congratulate Prof. Napier on having produced a book which will not merely sustain, but enhance his distinguished reputation as a scholar, and which reflects the highest credit on the university to which he belongs. Work of this sort is not showy in the ordinary sense, but of real value.

Fayûm Towns and their Papyri. By B. P. Grenfell, A. S. Hunt, &c. (Egypt Exploration Fund.)

HERE is another large volume, full of new texts and valuable essays, which two indefatigable scholars have produced with aid from Mr. Hogarth and Mr. Milne. They have continued their ransacking of the Fayûm, and perhaps the most valuable addition which this volume makes to our knowledge is the localizing of various place - names which had long been known

through the Petrie papyri and other sources, but are now for the first time geographically determined. This was done by the finding of groups of papyri on each site, in which the old name of the village constantly recurred. Thus Bacchias and Karanis, Dionysias and Philoteris, Philadelphia and Theadelphia, are now discovered. By a continuation of this process it seems likely that the whole ancient map of the province will be filled in. Another point of considerable importance is the advice given by the explorers of the proper way to find papyri in the rubbish mounds of the ancient sites. Their account of the peculiar appearance of the débris (which they describe as a/sh) which they have found the receptacle of undestroyed papyri, and which is therefore the first thing to be sought for on any site, is not only deeply interesting, but of the greatest value for their successors — if, indeed, they leave anything for their successors to find. So far, then, this volume forms a worthy companion to those which they have issued each year upon their return from Egypt. They are rapidly becoming masters not only in the art of reading papyri, but in that of finding them. The pity of it is that so elaborate a volume should be filled with such poor materials. The inscriptions they supply tell almost nothing; the great hoard of coins is only remarkable for its quantity; and as for the texts, we are almost tempted to call them a miserable lot. We want no more fragments of Homer with the current text of the Roman period, for they tell us nothing. What variants they show are almost all blunders of the writers. There may be economic specialists in the world who want to see more receipts for rent, for taxes, farm accounts, and other everyday work from Roman Egypt; but to any one else such papers are rather uninteresting. There is not an allusion to public affairs in one of them. They seem incapable of suggesting any general view of the administration of the country. Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt produce 140 texts in full, and then mere descriptions of 225 more. They would have saved much trouble and expense if they had put 100 of the former into the second category. The reader will weary of this vast accumulation of trivialities, especially if he makes the reflection that there are lying in Oxford quantities of papyri taken from crocodile cases stuffed with them; that there are also lying in Oxford a series of papyrus mummy cases which may produce treasures such as the Petrie papyri; and that these possible wonders are kept waiting while our discoverers are wasting their time over such stuff as the present texts. When one further reflects upon the possibility of the Oxford mine of wealth becoming the prey of fire, or the matchless decipherers losing their lives by fever or accident in their sleepless pursuit of more treasure than they can ever use, one feels inclined to stir up the world of letters to a solemn protest and strive to set bounds to an absurd misdirection of energy. The present volume, so far as texts are concerned, might very well have waited till the world knows what the vast mass of undeciphered papyri contains.

The crocodile papyri are not, so far as one can tell from hearsay, of any vast import-

ance. They, too, seem to be the documents of a remote village officer and his correspondents, though who knows what diamond may not lie concealed among this afsh? But the new mummy cases—what may they not contain? Visions of Sappho and Menander rise up before the lover of Greek, or the mimes of Sophron, the life of Alexander by the first Ptolemy! How long is he to wait till these doubts are resolved?

Now that we have ventilated the general grievance of scholars, we may say a word concerning the few texts before us which are not wholly uninteresting. There is a fragment of the 'Chœrea and Callirhoe,' which shows that this novel must have been composed not later than 100 A.D., and perhaps earlier. This date for the Greek novel, which is not the product of the Sophistic, but of the Hellenistic age, has been already established by the first-century fragment which Prof. Mahaffy published in the Acta of the Lincei at Rome. There is an imperial edict concerning the aurum coronarium, probably by Severus Alexander, which is long and very difficult to read, and not merely parochial. We do not agree with the editors when they say that this nominal present became a semi-voluntary contribution on set occasions under the empire. The exacting of a στέφανος of gold was a common special tax in Hellenistic times. The printing in full of fragments from Homer and Demosthenes was wholly unnecessary, and only fills up pages. A list of the variants, so far as they are of the smallest importance, would have been ample. The correspondence of Gemellus, dating 94-110 A.D., is, of course, very valuable paleographically, as this epoch in Greek writing has hitherto been but scantily represented; otherwise these various letters are singularly devoid of interest. Of Ptolemaic papyri there are unfortunately very few, and these do not help to fill up a single gap in the many which the Ptolemaic history still presents. Concerning loans of seed, receipts for taxes on wine, oil, or on sales, leases of oil presses, sales of cows and asses, notices of births and deaths,

there is nothing to say.

In spite of the well-known accuracy and care of the editors, there are not wanting signs of haste in the preparation of this huge and laborious volume. In the first place, the style is exceedingly dry and unattractive; there was evidently not a moment to spare to think of such things. But, indeed, the Fayûm is most picturesque; the life of explorers in that region, as yet unpolluted by tourists, is most fascinating. We look in vain for some trace of subjectivity to show that we are not dealing with a pair of misers, who are merely hunting for gold which they may store away from the world in their coffers at home, but with literary men, to whom the spreading of knowledge is the end to which discovery is only the means. In the next place, the numbers on the plates, or the references to them, have gone astray; and this is a serious thing to a learner who tries to read from the plate, and finds, to his horror, that he cannot identify a single word correctly. At the foot of plate vi. there should be No. xx. col. 2 (not xviii.). On p. 89 the reference should not be plate vi. but v. 4. On p. 116 plate v. should be vi.; on p. 261 not plate vi.

but v. A slip of errata could easily have set these things right. But we may not conclude without reaffirming our deep sense of the learning, the acuteness, the patience, displayed throughout the volume. Wherever the authors were wanting in special knowledge they have not hesitated to call in specialists, and the only complaint to make is that in this volume at least such rare qualities should be wasted upon such poor material.

Readings on the Paradiso of Dante. By William Warren Vernon. (Macmillan & Co.)
The Life of Dante. By Paget Toynbee.
(Methuen & Co.)

MR. VERNON must be congratulated upon the termination of his more than ten years' task. His six volumes now stand complete, and make a useful addition to the library of every Dante student. The principle on which they are constructed is pretty well known by now. Starting, as we were told, from the "readings" of a party of friends at Florence, they have maintained throughout the character appropriate to such an origin. They are somewhat more discursive than mere notes are allowed, at least by the judicious, to become. There is a copious and somewhat undiscriminating citation of commentators. One can almost see the reader pausing over some difficult passage and, with a "Let us see what So-and-so says," taking up a book and imparting So and so's views to the company. When So and so is, say, Benvenuto of Imola, we are pretty sure of getting some sensible, perhaps shrewd or humorous, bit of comment; when he is Dr. Moore, we shall have solid and accurate learning. But we must confess that it is easy to have enough of the Polettos, Casinis, and other recent Italian writers, of whose observations, seldom true and almost never new, Mr. Vernon prints a full allowance. What, for instance, is any one profited by knowing that on Dante's pretty if rather naïve comparison of St. Peter greeting St. James in heaven with a cock-pigeon cooing and pirouetting round its mate, Casini says that perhaps he recollected the following line of Horace (1 'Epist.' x. 5):-

Annuimus pariter, vetuli notique columbi?

Perhaps he did, perhaps he did not; if he did, he "recollected" about as inapposite a line as any in which the word "columbus" occurs, and Casini's erudition might as well have been left buried in his own notes.

So, again, there was surely no need to devote a page or more to Bartoli's extremely foolish and shallow comment on Dante's apportionment of places in the next world, and especially in Paradise. If Bartoli had possessed an elementary acquaintance with the doctrines of the Church, instead of swaggering about his superiority to all forms of creed—"We, who are neither Jesuits, nor Catholics, nor Protestants, nor Mahometans, &c." (sic), he airily remarks somewhere—he would have known that there was nothing surprising in the poet's finding so few of his contemporaries among the blessed. Even the best of men we believe, according to the orthodox view, must undergo a certain period of purification; and of the two, there is more ground for wonder in the fact that Dante

ventured to canonize, if one may so say, on his own account, some half-dozen or so of persons who had left the world within or not much outside of his own lifetime. If, on the other hand, he passed a severer sentence on a comparatively large number of his contemporaries, can any one after reading the chronicles of the time—and neither Villani nor Compagni strikes one as a person prone to harsh judgments—honestly say that they did not as a rule deserve it? Mr. Vernon, if he would only believe it, is far better qualified to expound Dante than either Casini or Bartoli, or indeed than the whole crew of Italian "decadents" put together; and English readers can but regret to see him suppress his own good taste and good sense even as much as he does in favour of their crude and ignorant philistinisms.

Why, again, should it be necessary to cite learned Italian authority for such a perfectly familiar derivation as isso from ipsum (not ipso as in the text)? Does any one, even Dr. Scartazzini, question it? But Mr. Vernon, like his Italian mentors, is not very strong in etymologies. So long, indeed, as he relies on Donkin's abridgment of Diez, he is in safe hands and cannot go far astray; but when he deserts that trustworthy guide he gets very far into the wilderness, as such a note as the following

shows :-

"Da coppa.....da ciglio: Coppa from the Latin Caput, occiput, Old It. Co.....is not to be confused with Coppa from the Latin Cuppa, a drinking-cup."

Unluckily, the derivation from caput is already monopolized by capo (contracted co), and there is not room for another claimant, even if caput could have become coppa, which it could not. Of course, coppa in all senses comes from cuppa, a cup. What does Mr. Vernon take to be the original signification of testa? Elsewhere we read that vime, from vimen, is "an ancient contracted form of vimine." Are nome, seme, "contracted forms." of nomine. semine?

forms" of nomine, semine?

Mr. Vernon's familiarity with modern
Tuscan phraseology enables him sometimes
to illustrate in an interesting way Dante's
use of a word in a sense no longer surviving
in the literary language. A good instance
is that on abbellire, in the sense of "to
please" (xxvi. 134). Others will be found

in the preliminary chapter.

We do not quite understand the note to xxxii. 43, which is worded with a touch of most unwonted asperity. The commentators who "set themselves up to deny" the interpretation of altrui which Mr. Vernon prefers include Benvenuto and Buti, with at least the vast majority before the end of the eighteenth century; and their

view is supported by Aquinas.

We find a curious little slip in the note to iii. 60, where it is suggested that Dante's omission to place Corso Donati in hell is due to Corso's being a kinsman of his wife Gemma. But as Corso was alive in 1300 Dante could hardly have found him in the nextworld, unless indeed in the "Tolommea"; and for admission to that favoured region the qualitication was, as we know, very exceptional. At the same time, if a famous passage in 'Purg.' xxiv. is rightly interpreted, he made it pretty clear what view he took of Corso's ultimate chances.

The Bishop of Ripon contributes a pleasantly written introduction (he should know better, though, than to write "Se Beuve"), the last sentence of which—contrasting the advantages enjoyed by the Dante student of to-day, to which Mr. Vernon has contributed as much as any man, with those which his predecessor of a quarter of a century ago possessed—we can heartily endorse.

It is not certain that the world was pre-cisely clamouring for another 'Life of Dante'; but if it is one of those books without which no publisher's catalogue is complete, no better person than Mr. Toynbee could have been found to supply it. He has given a certain originality (if it be not a bull) to his handling of the well-worn sub-ject by making his little book very largely an avowed compilation. Few pages are without inverted commas, indicating extracts from Villani, Boccaccio, or more modern writers—a plan which strikes us as highly sensible; not that the latest lights are excluded, e.g., the "identification" of Gentuca. Wisely, again, in a book intended for the general reader, against the general reader. for the general reader, controversial points are for the most part avoided, while even apocryphal anecdotes have not been rejected, after due caution given. As Mr. Toynbee points out, the mere fact of their association at an early date with Dante's name shows "the way in which his fame as a poet impressed the popular imagination in Italy," and is therefore a fact in his history.

Mr. Toynbee has devoted more space than is usual to the portraits of Dante. He does not share the scepticism, now fashionable in some quarters on à priori grounds, as to the genuineness of the death-mask. So far as appears, he does not even reject the Bargello portrait. The chapter dealing with these is indeed largely made of quotations from Mr. C. E. Norton, but the notes in which Mr. Toynbee adds occasional confirmation to the statements of the American scholar

show what his own opinion is.

We hope that this little book may, like others of Mr. Toynbee's, be translated into Italian. There is certainly nothing of the kind in that language so well adapted to its purpose.

Histoire et Religion des Nosairis. Par René Dussaud. (Paris, Bouillon.)

Syria has always been a prolific mother of sects, and among the most obscure, but also the most interesting, of these are the Nosairis, who are widely scattered through the mountainous district lying south and west of the river Orontes. According to the best authorities, ancient and modern, the founder of the Nosairis was a certain Muhammad ibn Nosair, who lived towards the end of the ninth century, and he is recognized as such by the Nosairis themselves. M. Dussaud rejects this origin, on the ground that Muhammad ibn Nosair, being a partisan of the eleventh Imâm, could not have founded a system based on the Isma'ili doctrine, which limits their number to seven. There is much force in this to a Western mind, but it must be remembered that an Oriental can, and generally does, admit the co-existence of incongruous and even mutually destructive ideas; for him the survival of the fittest

means the preservation of whatever strikes his fancy. He is no more logical than a kaleidoscope. Hence this argument, though a serious one, cannot be regarded as settling the matter. But M. Dussaud does not stop here. He quotes a passage in which Pliny speaks of the Orontes as dividing Apamea from the "Nazerinorum tetrarchia." Who were these Nazerini? M. Dussaud identifies them with the Nosairis. Pliny's transcription, he thinks, is excellent. It is equally excellent if Pliny is referring, as seems possible, to the "hérétiques nazaréens" (Nasrânîs). The author claims that his theory is confirmed by Sozomen; this, however, depends on a second theory, which makes Sozomen mean not what he actually says, but what M. Dussaud believes he ought to have said. Now comes the conclusion :-

"Dès lors, le nom de Nosairi est bien antérieur à Mohammed ibn Nosair, antérieur aussi à l'appellation de Nazaréen = chrétien. Il ne désigne pas une secte musulmane quelconque, mais un peuple dont la première mention historique nous reporte au début de notre ère, à une époque où florissaient, dans cette région, les cultes syro-phéniciens."

One might assert with equal justice that the history of Neoplatonism begins in the Homeric age. No doubt the Nosairîs were at least partially descended from the race which through long generations inhabited the north-western corner of Syria; but why should that name be applied to contemporaries of the early Roman Empire? The Nosairîs, as known to us, are a Mohammedan sect; their doctrine and scheme of divinity is characteristically Mohammedan, mingled though it be in the minds of a conservative and tenacious peasantry with many venerable relics of pagan superstition—strange lingering echoes which come like ghosts to haunt the old home. The mention of Muhammad ibn Nosair proves that the Arab historians attached a religious significance to the term Nosairi. M. Dussaud's hypothesis, while it explains nothing, assumes everything, for he cannot show a scrap of solid evidence that the word existed before the sect. It is well to lay stress on the point, as it is typical of the author's method. Notwithstanding all his industry—and he has gathered many references—the materials for a history of the Nosairis, "from the Roman period to the present day," are but meagre and fragmentary. This is no fault of his; but want of bricks can hardly be accepted as an excuse for imaginative architecture.

Four-fifths of the volume are devoted to Nosairì doctrines, sects, ceremonies, and festivals. Here, at any rate, materials are not lacking. The principal source of information is the 'Kitâb al-bâkûra,' written about forty years ago by a Nosairì, who turned Jew, then Moslem, then passed over to the Greek Church, and finally became a Protestant. It contains, besides a quantity of prayers, poetry, and polemic, the Sacred Book of the Nosairìs, the 'Kitâb al-majmû,' of which M. Dussaud gives the text and translation. Students of Oriental mysticism, ritual, and folk-lore will find much to interest them in the extracts made by M. Dussaud from this and other Nosairì documents, which form an altogether indescribable medley of the most extravagant and

insane ideas that were ever combined in a single religious system. Deification is a feature common to many Mohammedan sects. It is but a step from the inspired creature to the all-inspiring Creator, who for a brief season puts on the garb of mortality. As the Druses invested Hākim with divine attributes, so, according to the Nosairis, the Godhead was incarnate in 'Alî ibn Abî Tālib:—

"Le développement de cette conception d'Alî-Dieu est fort intéressant à suivre. Les malheurs d'Alî et de ses descendants, leur écrasement par les orgueilleux Omayyades, la persécution dont ils furent l'objet, tout leur assurait la sympathie et le concours des opprimés. En Perse, loin de la cour de Damas, la propagande alide prit une extension menagante. L'Islâm, après sa diffusion trop rapide, était en proie à une véritable anarchie. Il subissait les assauts d'innombrables sectes: Mou'tazilites, Mourdjites, Chî'ites, Khâridjites, se décomposant elles-mêmes en plusieurs branches qui professaient les croyances les plus contraires au Qoran. De toute part surgissaient des prophètes. Quelques-uns, reconnus pour le Messie ou pour Dieu même, soutenaient jusqu'au supplice le poids de leur divinité. On les martyrisait, on les brûlait, on les crucifiait; mais leurs adeptes les ayant vus monter au ciel, attendaient leur retour avec une foi plus vive."

This is not the place to discuss the recondite mystical theology of which M. Dussaud provides an admirably lucid exposition. One or two points may be noticed. The statement that the Nosairis did not know what "Ali" meant, but regarded it merely as an epithet of the Supreme Being, seems open to question. Again, the author translates 'Ali al-A'lā by "'Alī est le Très-Haut," remarking that the correct form would be 'Alī ta'ālā. His translation, however, is at fault, not the Arabic formula, which corresponds to Rabbî al-A'lā, "My Lord the Supreme," applied to the founder of the Bâbîs, Bahâ'ullah. In the account of the Fall, taken from the 'Kitâb al-bâkûra,' occurs the following passage:—

"Toutes les tribus nosairîs croient que les Nosairîs, au commencement—avant que fût le monde—étaient des astres brillants, des étoiles étincelantes, et qu'ils distinguaient entre l'obéissance et la révolte. Ils ne mangeaient, ils ne buvaient, et ils ne rendaient pas les excréments. Ils contemplaient 'Alî ibn Abî Tâlib dans l'éclat du saphir. Ils restèrent dans cet état 7,077 ans et 7 heures. Puis ils pensèrent entre eux: 'Alî n'a pas été créé au dessus de nous.' Ce fut le premier péché que commirent les Nosairîs."

The words in italics are wrongly translated. The correct rendering is: "'Ali has not created anything more excellent than we are." "By that sin fell the angels." And Plotinus, too, teaches that egoism was the cause of the soul being cast out of the divine presence. It must be admitted that the texts which M. Dussaud has to deal with are often difficult and in many places corrupt, but no extenuation can disguise the fact that he is guilty of a large number of gross and unpardonable errors, whether from carelessness or from an imperfect acquaintance with Arabic idiom we are not concerned to decide. Take, for instance, the following sentence from a Druse writer, of which the literal translation is:—

"And these differ from the others in believing that the souls of women are immortal and that they are subject to future recompense and punishment" (tuthābu wa tu'āqabu).

M. Dussaud renders :-

"Les Nosairîs se séparent des Druzes sur la croyance à l'immortalité de l'âme chez les femmes. Celles-ci sont mises à part et privées (des actes religieux)."

The Nosairi doctrine of metempsychosis is very curious and interesting. Whereas the pious soul ascends to "the burning fountain whence it came," and takes its place among the stars, the soul of the wicked must return to earth and undergo a long purification by imprisonment in the bodies of men or beasts. Infidels who have not worshipped 'Ali ibn Abi Talib become mules, camels, asses, dogs, sheep, and the like. The novice is warned that, if he reveal the mysteries, he will suffer a vile transformation without hope of release. As a specimen of naïve credulity this anecdote may amuse:—

"On raconte qu'un certain Nosairî possédait une vigne dans laquelle il avait travaillé pendant quelque temps avec son père jusqu'à la mort de celui-ci. On était à l'époque des raisins quand un loup s'installa dans la vigne. Chaque fois que le Nosairî venait, il trouvait le loup mangeant les raisins et le chassait. Ceci dura jusqu'à ce que fatigué, il décida de le tuer. Or, tandis qu'il apprêtait à le frapper de son arme, le loup lui 'O un tel, vas-tu tuer ton père parce qu'il prend quelques raisins de la vigne qu'il a fécondée sa vie durant par son travail?' Le Nosairt sa vie durant par son travail? Le Nosairt surpris d'entendre parler le loup, s'écria : 'Qui est mon père?' Le loup répondit : 'Moi, car mon âme a émigré dans cette forme. Ceci est ma vigne que tu as cultivée avec moi.' Nosairî se souvint alors que son père avant de mourir avait caché dans la vigne une faucille. Après la mort de son père, il s'était aperçu de la disparition de la faucille, mais il n'avait pu la 'Si tu dis vrai,' cria-t-il au loup, retrouver. 'Si tu dis vrai,' cria-t-il au loup, 'dis-moi où est la faucille avec laquelle nous coupions les sarments de vigne.' Le loup répondit : 'Suis-moi,' et se dirigeant vers l'endroit où était la faucille : 'La voici,' lui dit-il. Le Nosairî la prit et permit au loup de manger des raisins autant qu'il voudrait."

Although we have felt bound to indicate the inaccuracy and lack of sobriety which occasionally disfigure the author's work, its merits are great and incontestable. Compared with it, all preceding accounts of the Nosair's must be regarded as disjecti membra gigantis. He is the first to bring order and coherence into chaos, and his research has contributed much new material for those who follow him. Moreover, he has travelled in the Nosair's country and used his eyes and ears to good purpose; his observations are almost invariably acute and suggestive; and since he is a Frenchman, it is needless to say that he writes charmingly.

NEW NOVELS.

Prejudged. By Florence Montgomery. (Macmillan & Co.)

WE never thought that the prejudice of Elizabeth against Darcy was wholly cleared up, or rather satisfactorily made out. In this more modern case the matter is easy to understand. A lady saw a man with large blue goggles and a limp, and put him down as a disreputable person. His conduct was, however, entirely meritorious, and his fair depreciator finally surrenders him her heart in the good old style, though her display of pride has made the scene too long. The complications leading to the fuller knowledge of the lady are ingenious, and we are glad, for once, to have a good deal

less dialogue than usual of the sort supposed to be brilliant. The author does not lack subtlety, and her apparent simplicity of style and thought may be the result of experience in writing. One small point there is to make. To talk of a place as F—— is to show a poverty of imagination to which the modern and rather exacting reader is not accustomed.

God's Lad. By Paul Cushing. (Pearson.)
MR. CUSHING has a good deal of experience in the art of constructing a story. He has managed in 'God's Lad' to introduce some vigorous scenes of life at sea and in the Californian goldfields half a century ago with much ingenuity. The scene opens in England, and the two principal characters are English, so that the author appeals to English readers and yet makes the chief part of his story deal with America. He writes in a vivid and trenchant style, and his story runs along easily and rapidly. It should please a good many readers.

The Sway of Philippa. By James Blythe Patten. (Allen.)

This is a long novel, and attention as well as time is needed in the reading. The characters hardly come under the ordinary category of folk in fiction, and therefore require more consideration. The intelligent village hunchback is a case in point. He is so often put into stories that one comes to expect one or two definite methods of treating him. He is often a saint, but he is frequently a demon. When he is treated in any other manner the reader is left not so much lamenting as surprised. The author of this novel has treated him much more humanly and more judiciously, as well as his patron and elect lady, Philippa herself. She is more interesting than charming, but in no sense of the common stuff of the heroines of English fiction. It is true that most of the men fall wildly in love with her, and this is conventional enough; but she manages them and her affairs and relatives differently from other girls. 'The Sway of Philippa' cannot be conscientiously called a good novel, but it has points of interest both in matter and treatment. Curious talk about marriage and its effects on race takes place between Philippa and her grandfather's head keeper. There are also other irresponsibilities, irrelevances, and errors of taste, and some strange construction of sentences give an air of crudity and ineptitude to these pages.

Stringtown on the Pike. By John Uri Lloyd. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

Mr. LLOYD's story has two great disadvantages: it is much too long, and a great part of it is written in a language which is difficult to read. Negro dialect, with its multitudinous contractions (presenting a repulsive page studded with commas), extraordinary verbosity, and lack of consecutiveness, is not attractive to English readers. One misses the charm of it and the fascination that it obviously exercises upon Americans, whose experience enables them to read into it something that English readers fail to see. Those who read novels for pleasure can hardly be expected to devote to such a book as this the time and hard work that would be required to make out the exact drift of

the story. It is full of digression; it seeks to be instructive, and may be meant to be amusing, but the author has forgotten that his first business should be to catch his reader's attention.

Committed to his Charge. By R. and K. M. Lizars. (Greening & Co.)

This chronicle of a Canadian country parish might pass well for a record of an English parish in the depth of the country, except for the fact that the rector appears to be appointed by the bishop in accordance with the wishes of the parishioners. The scenes of clerical life here depicted show that the authors have a very pleasant gift of gaiety and an agreeable way of expressing themselves. They have not attempted anything very elaborate in the way of a story, and it must be said that the interest of their chronicle declines when they descend to serious events. As a record of certain phases of Canadian country life the book is decidedly interesting.

Amour, Amour. Par Pierre Veber. (Paris, Simonis Empis.)

M. PIERRE VEBER is one of the rising novelists and playwrights, but he is not respectful towards the accepted moralities, and we almost hesitate to notice his last novel, in spite of its extraordinary power. M. Veber has no notion of form. His book begins like 'Candide,' and appears at first to be but a fantastic exercise in irony. Before the middle it has become a study of real life, but it ends as it began. The detached episodes are some of them, perhaps, superior to any work of the kind, and the whole would lead us to form great hopes of the writer's future were it a first book. M. Veber is, however, already the author of a good deal of work, some acknowledged and some "ghostly" (it having appeared as that of better known men). "M. Manonlesco" is a name of genius for a Wallachian who lives by doubtful means in Paris. A word-picture of the readers in a great public library, applicable to the British Museum, is of singular beauty.

AMERICAN HISTORY.

A Short History of the United States for School Use (Macmillan & Co.) has been prepared by Prof. Edward Channing, who has many qualifications and much experience for the task. Prof. Channing's aim is to tell his country's story "in a simple and concise form," and he has succeeded fairly well, though now and then his language is rather too conversational. For instance, it is written of Columbus's expedition: "When day broke, there, sure enough, was land." He says of De Soto that, when at Mobile, "he had a dreadful time," and that, when food began to fail on Roanoke Island, "Drake, happening along, took the settlers back to England." Writing of French settlers, he says, "Soon their water gave out, and then their food." It is well known that Henry Hudson was placed in a boat by his mutinous crew and turned adrift in the bay bearing his name. Having told this, Prof. Channing adds, "and perished in the cold and ice." What happened is unknown; but he might have died of hunger, and it is needless to make him perish both in cold and ice. A very brave and audacious feat of the New Englanders was the siege and capture of Louisburg in 1745. It is doubly misleading to write, as Prof. Channing does, that the

capture was effected "without much help from the English," firstly, because the war-ships of the country whereof New England secondly, because the right phrase is not "the English," but "the Government in England." The French colonial government is characterized as "a despotism directed from France." This phrase lacks precision, and France." the one which follows implies that a despotism did not act badly: "Whatever resources the french had in America were certain to be well used." Paragraph 107 is unworthy of Prof. Channing's pen. It begins with the accession of George III., and continues: "He soon found in George Grenville a narrow, dull, well-meaning lawyer, a man who would do what he was told.....To him the law was the law." It is true that Grenville was called to the Bar in 1735, but, on entering Parliament in 1741, he abandoned whatever practice he may have had, and probably he was as little of a lawyer, in the professional sense, as Prof. Channing. Moreover, George III. found that Grenville had a will and views of his own; he certainly refused "to do what he was told." The whole truth is not told of John Hancock in this book or others prepared for the instruction of American children. Hancock was a smuggler before becoming a patriot, and the ardour of his patriotism owed much to selfinterest. Referring to the Quebec Act of 1774, Prof. Channing says that it "seemed to be an attack on free institutions." On the contrary, it was a most liberal measure, confirming the civil rights of the French Canadians under the laws to which they had been accustomed, and introducing the criminal law of England with trial by jury. We could add to the list of shortcomings, but we have sufficiently indicated the direction in which Prof. Channing should revise his work and thereby greatly increase its usefulness.

The North American Indians of To-day, by Dr. George Bird Grinnell (Pearson) contains much information which is both interesting and new. Twenty-six portraits of Indian chiefs attract the eye, but they have no other connexion with the letterpress than that of appearing along with it. An account of each should have been supplied. As it is, their name is the only thing we know of them. Dr. Grinnell has spent much of his life among the Indians who are still permitted to inhabit the land of which their ancestors were the masters. That they have survived so long is chiefly due to the vast extent of territory over which they are scattered, and the inability or indisposition of the white man to occupy the whole of it. But their lives are irrevocably changed, even if their days are not actually numbered. As Dr. Grinnell puts it, there is no room for the Indians and the railway, provided the Indians resolve to live like their They must either follow the forefathers. bison into the silent land, or else submit to be transformed. At the present day there are 262,965 Indians in the United States, exclusive of Alaska. One hundred and seventy-seven reservations are set apart for them, and these cover nearly 84,000,000 acres. The area is Grinnell's words, that "much of this land is of little value." Many of the facts collected and little value." Many of the facts collected and set forth by Dr. Grinnell are very curious, and one will startle those readers who are not minutely versed in recent history. When the American colonists were struggling to sever their connexion with Great Britain, they classed the employment of Indians for their subjugation among the worst crimes of the motherland. Those who have investigated the matter know that Indians fought for Congress against their fellows who fought for King George. The following statement quoted from Dr. Brinton will be Prevelation to many: "Five companies (500 men) recruited from the Iroquois of New York and Canada during our Civil War, stood first on the list among all the recruits of our army for height, vigour, and corporeal symmetry." The eurse of the Indians is their liking for strong drink, and the drawback is a dislike for steady labour. Yet they may be pardoned if they sometimes consider the methods of civilization no improvement on their own. Dr. Grinnell tells how an educated Pawnee, who had saved some money, fell a victim to a white swindler. He was induced to put his money in bank shares. The bank failed three months afterwards, and then he had to part with his remaining capital to pay the calls, "leaving him in middle life to begin the world anew."

The Jeffersonian Cyclopedia (Funk & Wagnalls Company), which John E. Foley has edited, is a large and heavy volume containing upwards of a thousand pages, and seems a rather useless work. Jefferson wrote much, the shortest and most effective of his writings being the Declaration of American Independence, which every living American has been taught to regard as second only in importance, if not equal, to the Ten Commandments. Few Americans have the courage or the competence to criticize this Declaration as a literary production. Jefferson's contemporaries were as excusable in admiring as he was in penning it, neither they nor he being capable of recognizing the absurdity of styling poor King George a ruthless tyrant, and of characterizing the Canadians as the victims of intolerable oppression. Yet to set forth the opinions of Jefferson in alphabetical order, as is done by Mr. Foley, is as foolish as the least defensible of Jefferson's acts or sayings. What advantage can any one gain who turns over the pages of this 'Cyclopedia' and reads No. 4432 concerning language, which runs: "We want an elaborate history of the English language"; or 4433: "The French language is an indispensable part of education for both sexes"? Is greater benefit gained by reading No. 4444: "I enjoy Homer in his own language infinitely beyond Pope's translation of him"? Is it of any possible use to reprint that Jefferson wrote to John Page (No. 5916): "If there is any news stirring in town or country, such as deaths, courtships, or marriages, in the circle of my acquaintance, let me know it" ? Neither is there much more wisdom in No. 5922: "The abuses of the freedom of the Press here have been carried to a length never before known or borne by any civilized nation." It is less futile, and perhaps not wholly unparalleled, "I have for Jefferson to have written in 1812: given up newspapers in exchange for Tacitus and Thucydides, for Newton and Euclid, and Perhaps I find myself much the happier." Jefferson is the only President or ex-President of the United States of America who read for recreation Tacitus and Thucydides, Newton and Euclid; and this is one of the few curious facts which those who have not read his works will glean from the 9,228 numbered passages. It is less pleasant, but not much more instructive than other revelations, to read what is stated in No. 5937: "The English papers—those infamous fountains of falsehood." If Jefferson gave up reading the newspapers of his own country, why did he not save himself the vexation of reading those which, according to him, were "infamous fountains of falsehood Does the following, No. 3633, show any originality: "Conjugal love is the basis of domestic happiness"? Or No. 9170: "Women are formed for attentions, not hard labour' Is it fair to Jefferson's memory to compile and publish such a volume as this? We fear that Mr. Foley is lacking in the sense of humoura gift which we are accustomed to consider as exquisitely developed on the other side of the Atlantic.

TRANSLATIONS.

The Novels, Victor Hugo. — Les Miserables, Vols. III.—VIII.
Translated by MM. Jules Gray and Edouard
Jolivet. — The Laughing Man. Complete and Unabridged, Jolivet.—The Laughing Man. 4 vols. Translated by Bellina Phillips.—Ninety three. 2 vols. Translated by M. Jules Gray.—Han of Iceland. 2 vols. Translated by John of Icelana. Chesterfield. Chesterfield. Illustrated. — Bug Jargal; The Last Day of a Condemned; Claude Gueux. Translated by Eugenia de B. (Dent & Co.)—The new translation of the novels of Victor Hugo, whose first volumes we noticed some time ago, has now included the remainder of 'Les Misérables,' besides other stories. It is a pity that we have again to say that the trans-It is a lation is so badly done as to deprive this edition of all the merit to which its good print and excellent etchings would otherwise entitle For some reason the translation of 'Les Misérables' has been entrusted to two countrymen of the author, apparently on the principle of "Set a thief to catch a thief." No doubt they understand what Hugo wrote very well, but they have the drawback of being unable to write English in any but the most mechanical and commonplace of fashions. Few authors are more difficult to translate than Victor Hugo, owing to the extremely fantastic and rhetorical nature of the style which he thought fit for romance, which sometimes rises to the most splendid eloquence, and again sinks to the very verge of the ridiculous. In this version the choice is between the absolutely ridiculous and the incomprehensible, which is not the effect that Hugo produces. Opening the first book almost at random, one finds gems like this :-

"All of us, whoever we may be, have our respirable beings. If they fail us, air fails us, we stifle. Then we die. To die through want of love is frightful. It is the asphyxia of the soul."

Hugo's prose had grave faults, but he could no more have written like that than he could have praised Napoleon III. Miss Phillips is no happier, as we may judge when we find her making her author say, "The coronet begins at the viscount." It is true that M. Jules Gray's version of 'Ninety-three' is rather better than some that have preceded it, and, though not good, is just tolerable. Probably this improvement is due to the simplification which Hugo's meteoric style assumed in his later years. As for Mr. Chesterfield's version of Hugo's boyish rawhead-and-bloody-bones romance, it is, if possible, more absurdly unreadable than the original. The fact is that the execution of this translation recalls Matthew Arnold's remarks about the wretched way in which the "journeyman work of literature" was done in this country. The standard has been much raised of late, and few publishers have done more to heighten it than Messrs. Dent & Co. with their admirable Balzac. For that reason one is both sorry and surprised that they should have lent their name to so incompetent and inadequate a piece of work as this American translation of Victor Hugo.

The Day of Wrath. By Maurus Jókai. Translated from the Hungarian by R. Nisbet Bain. (Jarrold & Sons.) — Jókai has written many weird stories, but never wrote one more weird than the present. It is a tale of family feuds, and a great part of the plot centres in the house of a public hangman. Some of the characters are interesting; for instance, General Vértessy, the strict disciplinarian, but humane soldier, under feminine government. The best parts of the book, however, are those in which the author displays his descriptive powers. His landscapes are often wonderfully true to nature. His account of the burning of the hangman's house is a vivid if somewhat sensational narrative. The "Slovak" conspiracy seems to us considerably overdrawn. The Hungarians should be the last to make fun of national movements, even if they

do occasionally have a ludicrous side. The belligerent schoolmaster, who is supposed to call himself Numa Pompilius (of all names!), is an impossible person. Mr. Bain tells us that Jókai wrote this novel on the collapse of the great Hungarian insurrection in 1849. He was ill at ease and tired of the abortive efforts which those around him had made. A German novelist at the time would probably have described the democratic efforts of Kossuth, when he solemnly deposed the Habsburg dynasty, in the same way as Jókai does the scheme of the poor Slovak schoolmaster. But national struggles are not necessarily ridiculous, as the Hungarian insurrection showed. Some, however, of the satire here is well bestowed, as when it lashes the insolence and apathy of the Magyar aristocracy, which were also the themes of some of the most telling verses of Petöfi.

The Baron's Sons: a Romance of the Hun-garian Revolution of 1848. By Dr. Maurus Jókai. Translated from the Hungarian by Percy Favor Bicknell. (Macqueen.)-Jókai here again deals with a period naturally attractive to his countrymen, with which he has successfully dealt more than once-the time of the great Hungarian insurrection. The story relates the fortunes of three sons of a Hungarian magnate. This truculent personage is repre-sented as a complete tyrant of the old school, such as Petöfi loved to satirize. He treats his wife as a mere tool, and lays down minute directions as to what is to be done after his death; but fate wills matters in very different fashion. His wife carries out none of his intentions. The great insurrection breaks out, and Eugene (Jenö), his youngest child, is executed by the Austrians as a rebel. Some Pretty love ingredients enter into the story. The main incident is based upon facts—as, for example, the attempt of small bodies of Hungarians who were in the Austrian service in other parts of the empire to cut their way back to join their insurgent countrymen. were detached parties of these patriotic Magyars, and several were killed as they fought their way through the Slovenish-speaking provinces, where the peasants were hostile. The book is written in the sensational style so familiar to Jókai's readers, but the author carries us with The description of the life of the young attaché, the Baron's eldest son, at St. Petersburg strikes us as overdrawn and untrue to nature. Mr. P. F. Bicknell, the American translator, frankly confesses that he has cut down the original in many places. We have noticed this treatment in other American translations of popular foreign novels, where, however, it has not been acknowledged.

St. Peter's Umbrella. By Kalmán Mikszáth. Translated from the Hungarian by B. W. Wors-With Introduction by R. Nisbet Bain. (Jarrold & Sons.)-Mr. Mikszáth is a fresh candidate for the favour of the English novelreading public, and is introduced very sympa-thetically by Mr. Nisbet Bain. We have before us a tale of village life among the Slovaks, a people whom the writer describes with a certain fellow-feeling. Owing to the perpetual feuds between them and the Magyars we do not always find this treatment. The Slovaks disalways find this treatment. turb the Hungarian solidarity, and the newspapers have just told us that another batch of them has been sent to prison for some considerable time, on account of a political manifesto. Moreover, if we remember that the Slovak language, which is identical with Old Bohemian, boasted a literature before anything existed in Magyar, it seems rather comical to see the Slovak words in this tale written phonetically, just as a man might register the patois of boors. However, this is a favourite piece of Magyar pleasantry, to which we have gradually got used. The tale is brightly written and has a pleasant heroine, Veronica, the sister of the parish priest. We must leave our readers to

find out about the red umbrella, how it came to be named after St. Peter, what great things were expected of it, and how they ended in nothing. The riches of old Gregorics disappeared, but the love was not less between Veronica and her wooer, although the poor girl was put to a sad trial. Some of the love-making is rather rough.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE.

The English Bookman's Library .- II. A Short History of English Printing, 1476-1898. By Henry R. Plomer. (Kegan Paul & Co.)—The first book on a subject is always more difficult to write than any that may succeed it, but to write a short history where some periods have been studied with the minutest precision, and others hardly worked on at all, combines the disadvantages met with by a pioneer and a critical scholar. Mr. Pollard in his editorial introduction gives some account of these. The history of English fifteenth-century printing is well known. Ames, Herbert, Dibdin, and Mr. Plomer himself are the authorities from 1500 to 1556. From 1556 to 1603 the Stationers Registers are our main sources, and from 1603 up to the present time no important works on English printing exist-a few scattered moncgraphs and private collections being the only aids in studying the subject. Mr. Plower has driven a furrow through this untilled waste, and succeeding workers may now add to it, correct it, or revise its plan, but their corrections will be based on his work. There are a number of subjects at once raised in considering the history of English sixteenth-century printing which Mr. Plomer's work does not aid materially in solving; for example, the history of the "patent" printers. From one point of view the division of chapters, 'Berthelet to Day' (iii.), 'Day' (iv.), 'Day's Contemporaries' (v.), is convenient; but we should poraries (v.), is convenient; but we should have preferred (a) 'Patent Printers, Latin'; (b) 'Patent Printers, English'; (c) 'Patent Printers, Law and Music'; (d) 'Other Printers.' In that case Mr. Plomer would have brought out many relationships which are now obscure, and he would have been forced to attack the problem of bookseller or printer or "coverring" stationer, which is so difficult in many cases. Thus the name of "Her Majesty's Printer for the Latin tongue" in 1582, Mr. Wilkes, does not appear in Mr. Plomer's book: nor does that of Henry Denham, who "executed" the patent of Mr. Seres. The history of provincial printing is so much in the hands a few specialists that any contribution to it is useful. We note, accordingly, one or two slips in Mr. Plomer's account of it. p. 155 1636 is a misprint for 1639 (see p. 218); and 1640 (p. 156) should be 1645. The history of Barker's press (p. 218) should have been traced out further. He was at York in 1642, from York he went to Shrewsbury, and thence to Bristol and then to Exeter. That "no other Bristol and then to Exeter. work printed in Exeter at that time is known" is incorrect, since there is in the British Museum 'Certain Prayers,' &c., Exeter, printed by Robert Barker & John Bill, 1645. There are several other works which bear the Exeter imprint, with dates 1645 to 1648. We may put on record, too, the fact that T. Dawkes was printing in Chester in 1689 (see p. 256), as a dated broadside in Lord Crawford's library shows, He was probably the printer of Holme's 'Academy of Armory,' 1688. The dates of Samuel Richardson's career are probably confused by some slip. He could not have taken up his freedom when he was seventeen in 1706, and as a matter of fact this was the date of his apprenticeship, his freedom being taken up in 1720. We should be glad to see the evidence for the date of 1708 (p. 256) as that on which White began printing at Newcastle. It is, we understand, a tradition only. It betrays some ignorance of modern times to say (p. 293) that "all the other Government work (except

the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer) is done by Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode. fancy we have seen the initials of Harrison. Clowes, Darling, McCorquodale, and others on Government documents. It is to be regretted, too, that Mr. Plomer has diverged into questions of taste. An admirer of the Bodoni Press should not have ventured to leave the safe ground of Mr. Pollard's authority to give an independent judgment on the Vale type, or, if he did, should have recognized an attempt to solve the question of the value of the "serif in letter-designing, which should hardly be called "a wilful and regrettable divergence." We have taken the opportunity of making these notes on Mr. Plomer's work because we regard it as a valuable contribution to English bibliography, and we hope that the book will have such a sale as to make a second edition of it an early necessity. Every one who uses it will recognize the labour spent in getting the materials together, but only those who have been engaged in similar works will guess at the time in verifying references, correcting proofs, &c., which Mr. Plomer must have spent. We offer him the hearty thanks of all

interested in English bibliography. Antoine Vérard. By John Macfarlane. Illustrated Monographs issued by the Bibliographical Society, No. VII. (Privately printed.)

—The members of the Bibliographical Society are to be congratulated on the possession of this magnificent volume, which, we are glad to see, is already appreciated by the booksellers. The work contains an introduction, a list of all the books attributed to Vérard, with a full description of them, a list of the woodcuts in his publications, and 79 illustrations. The list of over 250 books issued by Vérard between 1485 and 1513 gives us some idea of the activity of a Parisian publisher at that period, and makes the mouth of the book-lover water, Mr. Macfarlane's praiseworthy indifference to light literature, we note, allowed him to index the 'Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles' under Boccaccio. The list of woodcuts will be extremely useful to collectors of later French romances &c., allowing them to trace out the origin of the cuts in the books printed in the early part of the sixteenth century. We are glad to see the bill for printing and illuminating a vellum copy of some of Vérard's work. We note for the two-volume 'Tristan,' vellum, 26 livres 6 sols 8 deniers tournois; 7 full-page illustrations, 12l. 5s.; for 175 small illustrations, 43l. 15s.; for 2,850 "verses" at 5s. per 100, 7l. 2s. 6d.; for binding, gilding, &c., 7l.; total, 96 livres 9 sols 2d. It is hazardous to predict what such a book would fetch at auction to-day; probably near a thousand pounds. It would require a knowledge as complete as Mr. Macfarlane's adequately to criticize his bibliography of Vérard. Mistakes and slips there undoubtedly may be-we have noticed one or two ourselves, notably in a case where the printer gives the collation himself in the second volume of the Froissart (No. 282) as F10 G6; but collations of early printed books vary so much that it would not be safe even to assume that this is a slip on the part of Mr. Macfarlane till one had examined the copy from which his collation was made, We would suggest, too, that as the Carrefour S. Séverin is in the Rue S. Jacques, the two addresses may be only two forms of the same Our principal difference with Mr. address. Macfarlane is on the question whether Vérard actually did any printing. We agree that there are types not found as yet in any known printer's books which are in Vérard's, but this does not prove that Vérard actually used them, any more than the corresponding use of the "Vale" type by Mr. Ricketts or the 'Golden'' type by the Kelmscott trustees in the admirable series of books they are issuing prove that these gentlemen are actually printers. The type is held to their order by the Ballantyne Press and the Chiswick Press

respectively; and the same state of things may have occurred with Vérard. There are several other assumptions in Mr. Macfarlane's introduction which will not meet with general consent among bibliographers, but they can be considered as adding to the interest of the book without detracting from its real value. The work as a whole will bring him to a leading place among our rising bibliographers.

The Library: a Quarterly Review of Bibliography and Library Lore. New Series. Vol. I. (Kegan Paul & Co.)—The first completed volume of the new series fully justifies the favourable opinion we have already expressed of the separate parts as they were issued. Book-lovers will find it to contain not only matter of ephemeral interest, but serious contributions to bibliography which cannot be overlooked by students. The volume before us, besides a number of plates which worthily sustain the reputation of the publishing house for sparing no pains to ensure adequate illustration, contains at least half a dozen articles of prime importance. It should be in every library of any mark in the kingdom.

SCOTTISH HISTORY.

The Rising of 1745. By Charles Sanford Terry. (Nutt.)—This is the third in the series of "Scottish History from Contemporary Writers." Good as were its two predecessors, it seems to be better than they. Mr. Terry has been particularly successful in weaving a consecutive narrative from very various sources, so that it reads like a connected whole. Murray of Broughton, Lord George Murray, the different writers in the 'Lyon in Mourning,' the Chevalier de Johnstone, Home, the historian of the Rebellion, and Maxwell of Kirkconnell, are among his leading authori-There is one point only, and a little ties. point that, which Mr. Terry seems to have missed. Mr. John Murray of Broughton dined on November 6th, 1745, at Holyrood Abbey with the Earl of Breadalbane, St. Germans, and John Campbell, an Edinburgh banker, who records the fact in his diary. That is to say, Murray must have stayed on in Edinburgh six days at least after the Prince had started for Derby. He was a timorous man, and would not feel very comfortable in the close neighbourhood of the Hanoverian garrison of Edinburgh Castle, unless he was already trafficking with the Government. One has always wondered how about 1738-40 he, a younger son, could come by 6,000l, to purchase the Peebles-shire estate of Broughton: was that not perhaps part of the price of his treachery? It is noticeable that his 'Memorials' make not the slightest reference to his seeming dilatoriness. There is another point about Murray—the dates of his three 'Memorials.' His editor, Mr. Fitzroy Bell, contents himself with the suggestion that "these 'Memorials seem to have been written about 1757": that The third 'Memorial' is the is ridiculous. The third 'Memorial' is the earliest; p. 279 shows that it must have been written before October 26th, 1748, the date of Young Locheil's death. The first 'Memorial' must have been written between 1752 and 1756, the dates given in Mr. Fitzroy Bell's footnote on a passage in Murray (p. 121), "that soon after Mr. William Murray (now Earl of Dun-more) asked me in a sly manner," &c.—the footnote says he succeeded as third earl in 1752, and died in 1756. Of the middle 'Memorial' one cannot fix the approximate date, not knowing when Steuart of Physgill died; but Murray's extremely important Account of Charge and Discharge respecting Sums of the Prince's in his Possession after the Battle of Culloden' (Chambers's 'Rebellion,' pp. 515-25) must belong to 1748 or 1749. Sir Stuart Thriepland had returned to Scotland, but Capt. Daniel had not started for Italy. Mr. Terry's 'Bibliography of Literature relating to Jacobite History,

1689-1788,' occupies nearly a hundred pages, and is of very high value. It consists of 363 entries of contemporaneous materials, 58 contemporary materials still in manuscript or incompletely edited, and 161 non-conclasses 1 and 3 would not better have made a single class: why should Jesse's 'Memoirs of the Pretenders' (1846) come in class 1. and the Pretenders' (1846) come in class 1, and the two Anti-Jacobin reviews of Home's 'History' in class 2? Anyhow, Mr. Terry should have stated that those reviews were by Sir Henry Seton Steuart, of Allanton (1759-1836), who was closely connected with many of the survivors of the Forty-five. But his bibliography is wonderfully full and accurate; we can detect only sixteen omissions:

we can detect only sixteen omissions:—

1. W. B., 'The White Rose; or, a Word for the House of York, vindicating the Right of Succession in a Letter from Scotland to a Peer of this Realm' (fol., Lond., 1850).—A curious connexion between the Yorkist and Jacobite white roses.

2. 'The Political State of Great Britain' (1715).—A monthly issue for the latter half of the year. A copy was picked up last May from an Edinburgh bookstall for sixpence.

3. James Balfour Paul's 'History of the Royal Company of Archers' (Edinb., 1875).—The list of members, almost all Jacobites, with the dates of their admission, is of high value.

their admission, is of high value.

4. The Earl of Albemarle, 'Fifty Years of my

4. The Earl of Albemarle, 'Fifty Years of my Life' (2 vols., 1870).

5. 'The Caldwell Papers' (Maitland Club, 4to, 1854).—A good deal about the Forty-five.

6. 'Journals of the Episcopal Visitations of the Right Rev. Robert Forbes, M.A.,' edited by the Rev. J. B. Craven (Lond., 1886).—A book now nowhere to be purchased. It contains much of interest—e.g., that Lord Strathallan, who fell at Culloden, was communicated on the morning of the fight by Lord Ogilvie's Episcopal chaplain in whisky and oat-cake, for wine and bread were nowhere forthcoming.

forthcoming.
7. 'Letters of Thomas Gray,' the poet (ii. of

7. 'Letters of Thomas Gray,' the poet (ii. of Gosse's edition, pp. 76, 139, 142).

8. 'A Series of Letters from and to the First Earl of Malmesbury' (2 vols., 1870).—The first sixty-three pages contain much as to the Forty-five.

9. Monsignor Robert Seton, D.D., 'An Old Family; or, the Setons of Scotland and America' (New York, 1899).

10. James Dennistoun, 'The Stuarts in Italy' (Quarterly Review, ii. 1846, p. 141).—A very able article.

article.

article.

11. A contemporary article on the battle of Falkirk was first printed in the Scotsman for April 17th, 1900. It is evidently written by a French officer who had fought in the battle.

12. Two admirable Quarterly articles by Sir Walter Scott—one on the 'Culloden Papers' (1816, i. p. 283), and the other on Home's 'History' (1827, ii) in 167.

i. p. 283), and the other on Homes
ii. p. 167).
13. Sobieska, Clementina, who in 1783 rode on
one, two, and three horses at once in a London
circus (Thomas Frost's 'Circus Life and Circus
Celebrities,' 1875, p. 24).
14. Robert Bain's 'History of the Ancient Province of Ross' (Dingwall, 1899), pp. 264-73 and

15. 'A Family Memoir of the Macdonalds of Keppoch,' by Angus Macdonald, M.D. (159 copies, 1885).

16. Various books showing the Jacobitism of the 16. Various books showing the Jacobiusin of the Rev. George Lluellyn, Rector of Condover, near Shrewsbury, in 1715; ancestors of Landor, Daniel O'Connell, Dr. Livingstone, and Lord Clyde; Gibbon as a schoolboy, Jenmy Dawkins, Dr. Burney, the founder of Tattersall's, &c.

This is a very small list of omissions: but one may doubt whether it could be easily doubled. Anyhow, any one who knows of rare Jacobite books should send the titles to the author of this small but most excellent history, with a view to future editions.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

MISS KATHARINE TYNAN'S Three Fair Maids (Blackie) belong to our own age; they are Irish girls, beautiful, spirited, and full of energy; they belong to an ancient and impoverished family, and they set to work to repair their fortunes by means of "paying guests," The device is simple, and it is successful. Moreover, the guests who flock to Ardeelish are not commonplace folk, and the adventures of the "Three Fair Maids,"

told in the writer's well-known and attractive style, make a pretty story.—A Sister of the Red Cross, by L. T. Meade (Nelson), is "a tale of the South African War," and we must frankly confess that we do not care for its tone. The scene is chiefly laid in Ladysmith, but the chief interest centres, not in the fate of the beleaguered town, but in the love affairs of the heroine, Sister Mollie. The said sister, we hasten to say, is an altogether estimable person, and an excellent nurse into the bargain, and it is not her fault that the man whom she loves becomes her patient and the patient whom she hates falls in love with her. Still, we do not like the mixture of nursing and love-making, and we do not believe that good nurses like it any better than we do.

Sarah Tytler's books for girls are always good, and Queen Charlotte's Maidens (Blackie) is a charming story. It is in the form of a diary, and purports to be written by Charlotte Venn, one of the orphan gentlewomen "whom Her Majesty benevolently adopted from the days when she came to Englanda girl princess of sixteen." The queen's "name-daughter" comes of a sailor stock and she has a soldier lover, and we hear a good deal of the great wars which were our scourge and our pride "when George III. was king." But we hear more of the stern and kindly little queen, of the homely king, over whom hangs so dreadful a doom, of their sons and their daughters. The author is well known as more than a student of history, and she gives in 'Queen Charlotte's Maidens' an admirable sketch of an interesting period.

A Hundred Anecdotes of Animals, With Pictures by P. J. Billinghurst. (Lane.)—Mr. Billinghurst draws in what may be called a seventeenth-century manner, but it is difficult to see why he throws away a good deal of care, skill, and sympathy with his subjects in such an absurd manner. The anecdotes concern dogs, horses, birds, &c., and record many noble and touching traits of courage, fidelity, tenderness, and gratitude, such as boys delight to read and remember, though the legends may be as old as the hills and they are told in an old-fashioned way.

The Dream Fox Story Book (Macmillan & Co.) tells how Billy Button, who had "stuck tongue pins" into his mother, i.e., used sharply pointed language, was sent to bed as a punishment, and how in his sleep he was visited by many strange dreams. His adventures are related by Mabel Osgood, while Mr. Oliver Herford illustrates them. They are more fanciful than amusing.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Conferences on Books and Men, by the Author of 'Pages from a Private Diary' (Smith, Elder & Co.), comes rather as a disappointment after the last-named volume, which had very great charm. Here it becomes evident, though it was not so in the former case, that the author is more or less bound down to write an essay every month for the pages of the Cornhill Magazine, and he makes one realize that he sometimes found it rather a bother. There is not the same spontaneity and freshness in this as made the 'Pages' such delightful reading. In almost all the essays, good though the subjects of many of them are, there seems just something a little bit strained, as if the writer were writing not so much because he loved the subject as because he had to write about something. In the article, for example, on 'Oxford Wit and Humour,' we read to the end always expecting to be carried away by his treatment of the subject, which in itself is delightful, but never being so. We feel all the time that wittier and more amusing things have been said and written about the subject, although we confess we are unable actually to lay our hands on them at

the moment; and this feeling is increased by the selection of examples, which are not always very funny. The fact of the matter is that the author-like most of the few men who can write charmingly about themselves, a gift he showed in his former volume—is never so happy when writing about other people. For this reason to our minds by far the best essays in the book are the two purely egotistical ones called 'A Holiday Number' and 'A Further Holiday Number.' Still, a man of the writer's taste cannot go far wrong, and we have been judging him from a high standard: though his essays on Cowley, for example, or on Chaucer, or on 'The Tears of the Muses' are not first class of their kind, they are by no means wanting in the charm which inevitably comes from a man writing about books who lives a fairly solitary life and has them as his chief companions. We only hope that as his chief companions. the author will not spoil his gift by using it too much. There are warning examples enough of over-production.

There is not very much to say about Pages from a Journal, &c., by Mark Rutherford (Fisher Unwin); it is simply a collection of essays written at different times in the author's life on the most varied subjects, and strung together without any particular coherence to make up a volume. The essays attracted some of them considerable attention when they were written, such as the one in which the author shows that Matthew Arnold was mistaken in his view of Goethe's appreciation of Byron, or the somewhat casuistical defence of Judas Iscariot. But there is not one of them which really seems to have anything strikingly original or permanent to say. Some of the stories in the book will be considered better reading than the essays.

Messrs. Macmillan have added to their "English Theological Library," which is supervised by Mr. Relton, The Works of Bishop Butler, with introduction and notes by Dr. Bernard, of Dublin. Butler's writings will admit of a large amount of annotation. His philosophical ideas can be illustrated profusely from the speculations of subsequent thinkers, or the state of theology in the eighteenth century and the ecclesiastical ideas of our forefathers may be made the subject of copious comment. But Mr. Bernard has we think wisely-been chary of note-writing, and left the reader pretty much to form his commentary for himself. In this way he has been able to include the bishop's writings in two handsome octavos of little more than 300 pages each, and at the same time the references and remarks he does append are eminently serviceable. In fact, this is an edition to be recommended.

Shadowings, by Lafcadio Hearn (Sampson Low & Co.), is by no means equal to its immediate predecessor, 'Exotics and Retrospec-tives': it appeals rather to residents in Japan, who have at least some chance, by personal contact, of knowing what sort of folk the denizens of the "Divine Land" are, than to Western readers whose ill fate has kept them within the bounds of a continent that has never produced a "Baijaku," a "Fuhaku," or a "Kikaku," but only commonplace Dantes, Shakspeares, Goethes, and the like. 'Shadowings' is shadowy indeed, and Mr. Hearn seems perilously near exhausting his repertory of kokiu (one-stringed fiddle) themes. The stories with which the present volume opens have no particular merit: they have lost their chief and real advantage—their local colour—in Hearnesque translation, and seem to be little more than suggestions or drafts of "nouvelles," out of which skilful hands might perhaps have made something much better. A good example of what we mean is the story of the Screenmaiden, which is a most lame presentment of a charming motif. The chapters on female names, on sémi couplets and 'Old Japanese Songs'

are more interesting, but only to those who possess a considerable knowledge of old Japanese life and literature. In kiu-Nihon (old Japan) women had no names-they have, it is believed, none now; they had merely yobi-na, call-names, pet-names, mark-names, or nicknames, some of which show the national lack of imagination after a truly surprising fashion: Miss Writing Brush, Miss Greed, Miss Iron, Miss Milestone, and so on. Probably, however, many names of this kind (none of which is met with in the true literature of Japan, the mediæval monogatari or romances) are survivals of ancient designations, some perhaps originally of Korean, others of Chinese, others again of Buddhist origin, modified by the rebus-like use of Chinese ideographs, so common in Far-Eastern countries, into senseless, or at least witless, appellations. The semi (tree-cicada) couplets are mere interjectional expressions, so rendered by Mr. Hearn as, in our opinion, to destroy whatever point they have. Let us take the first:— Hatau-semi ya! | "Kore wa atsui" to | iu bi yori. TAIMU. Mr. Hearn's version is:-

The day after the first day on which we exclaim, "Oh, how hot it is!" the first sens begins to cry.

But what Mr. Taimu really wrote was :-The first semi, eh! | why from the day | people say, "How

The suggestion is unexpressed, but implied, and there lies the point and art of the whole: it is that when the first heats are felt the sémi is first heard; in a word, the sémi heralds the return of warmth as the cuckoo does in Europe. Of the "Old Japanese Songs"-where is the proof of their antiquity?-much the best is the dance-ballad of the dragon maid, who bewitched a yamabushi, and chased him over moor and hill and river, until the temple of Dojo was reached, under the great bell of which the trembling hill-warrior or outlaw (yamabushi were such originally in all probability) hid himself, whereupon the dragon maid wrapped her body round the bell once and again and a third time, and the third time the bell melted and flowed away like boiling water. And with it, according to the legend. flowed away the ashes of the unwilling object of the dragon maid's affections, consumed not through love, but through disdain.

Sparks from Camp Fires, by Capt. Creagh (Chapman & Hall), which the author calls an autobiography, would more properly be called a series of reminiscences, as it is rather a disjointed affair, and seems merely a collection of incidents in which the author was actor or spectator. The most interesting part of the book, undoubtedly, at the present day is his account of what happened in the Crimea, where he was a subaltern. He certainly conveys adequately, what one has always imagined to be the case, that the whole affair was miserably mismanaged at first, and that it is a wonder that so many troops returned from it at all. He also shows, however, that though the English have an extraordinary tendency to underestimate, mismanage, and muddle everything at first, yet when they realize the crisis they show themselves extremely practical and fitted to deal with the emergency. In the first year the French troops were very much better off than ours were-ours, indeed, could not have been worse off; but in the second year the conditions were exactly reversed, and the outcry had awakened the dormant energy of the War Office to make things almost as comfortable as they could be for soldiers in the circumstances. We need not draw out the moral from these facts. The author has also some interesting remarks to make about the extraordinarily stupid drill-book arrangements of that time, which were not in all cases so absurd in themselves as absurd when they came to be regarded by the unintelligent British officer as the ne plus ultra of military tactics. However, in spite of these merits, the book on the whole cannot be very cordially

recommended. It is somewhat vulgar in tone, and much of it is distinctly dull.

THE house of Calmann-Lévy publish Dix Mois de Campagne chez les Boërs, by an Ancien Lieutenant du Colonel de Villebois-Mareuil. The author is a cavalry captain in the French army, and his book represents the usual opinion of continental regulars who have served against us with the Boers. He and his friends left Paris with 38lb. of luggage each, this including the military revolver and 200 cartridges. He ridicules our officers for taking with them "full dress, and two or three suits of plain clothes, tennis suits and polo suits." He tells us that our regulars as a rule fight well, though with the exception of some battalions; but that militia, yeomanry, and volunteers often surrendered in order to escape danger and suffering. He pronounces our officers ignorant of the art of war, and our generals, except Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener, beneath contempt. He dislikes and despises the Boers, and, in common with all French officers in China and in South Africa, gets on admirably with the Germans. The French and Germans fighting for the Boers all agree in their detestation of the Boers and admiration for each other. We note that the military attachés with the Boers (after the Russian and the Dutchman had been taken) helped the side to which they were "attached."

The Bennett Twins, by Grace Marguerite Hurd (Macmillan & Co.), is an amusing account of the adventures of a brother and sister who attempt to study art in New York and to get their living by it. The narrative gains by lively style, and the description of the twins and their friends and acquaintances is decidedly agreeable. There is no love story in the book, but plenty of harmless fun and some rather sad distress courageously borne. The characters are well presented.

Messes. Hachette have sent us the Almanach Hachette for 1901, which is a model of what such things should be, and Toute Seule, a charming book for girls by Madame Chabrier-Rieder, which deals with the career of a friendless young woman stranded at a pension for girls, much in the position of Becky Sharp; but this heroine manages to do her duty on much less than that insidious creature thought necessary for virtue, and finally wins a husband after delays due to high ideals of conscientious-The tale is written with a pleasant ness. spice of freshness, but we hope that the Englishwoman who bullies the heroine is an uncommon spectacle. There are numerous excellent illustrations by Damblans.

MR, JAMES KNOWLES now calls his review the Nineteenth Century and After, and affirms the presence of the new century by putting on the title-page a two-faced Janus, adapted from a Greek coin by Sir E. J. Poynter, Among other signs of the times we notice in the articles a great increase in short isolated sentences, which the novelists at first only employed as a means of creating extra em-

Miss Mitford's Our Village has appeared in the "Temple Classics" (Dent).

WE have on our table The Romance of the Earth, by A. W. Bickerton (Sonnenschein),— Foundations of Knowledge, by A. T. Ormond (Macmillan),—The Story of Thought and Feeling, by F. Ryland (Newnes),-Exploded Ideas, and other Essays, by the Author of 'Times and Days' (Longmans),—The Army Diary and Pocket-Book, 1901 (Gale & Polden),—Our Own Magazine, 1900, edited by T. B. Bishop (Children's Special Service Mission),—On the Track, by H. Lawson (Australian Book Company, 38, West Smithfield),—Abra of Poictiers, by M. E. Ames (Nisbet),—Ships and Havens, by H. Van Dyke (Nelson),—Landlopers, by J. Le Gay Brereton (Fisher Unwin),—Men of Marlowe's, by Mrs. H. Dudeney (Long),-The

Overtons, by E. Macgregor (Nelson),-Who Goes There? by B. K. Benson (Macmillan),— Happiness: its Pursuit and Attainment, by the Rev. W. J. Kelly (Long),-and Shakespeare Sermons, edited by the Rev. G. Arbuthnot (Longmans). Among New Editions we have The Guide to South Africa, 1900-1 (Low),—Every Man's Own Lawyer, by a Barrister (Lockwood),—In the Beginning, by J. Guibert, translated from the French by G. S. Whitmarsh (Kegan Paul),—and La Préhistorique, by G. A. Adrien de Mortillet (Paris, Reinwald). Also the following Pamphlets: Report of the Ottoman Public Debt, 1899-1900, -and Our National Army, by G. G. Coulton (Simpkin).

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Burwash (N.), Manual of Christian Theology on the Inductive Method, 2 vols. 8vo, 12/ Robinson (A.), Old and New Certainty of the Gospel, 2/6 Sacrifice, The, Redemption's Story, cr. 8vo, 3/ net. Law.

Companies Act, 1900, Notes by F. B. Palmer, 8vo, 6/

Fine Art and Archaelogy.

Lefèvre (L), Architectural Pottery, translated by K. H.
Bird and W. M. Binns, imp. 8vo, 15/net.

Surtees (R. S.), Jorrocks's Jauuts and Jollities, 42/net.

Poetry and the Drama. Earle (W.), Home Poems, cr. 8vo, 10/4 net. Gerard (W.), Una, a Song of Bngland in 1900, cr. 8vo, 3/6 net. Hoare (B. G.), As the Wind Stirs, cr. 8vo, 4 & Leo, ardi, Poems, done into English by J. M. Morrison, 12mo, 3/6 net. Trench (H.), Deirdre Wed, and other Poems, cr. 8vo, 5/

Music.

Moser (A.), Joseph Joachim, a Biography, 1831-99, translated by L. Durham, 8vo, 15/ net.

Bibliography.

Cotgreave (A.), A Contents Subject-Index to General and
Periodical Literature, cr. 8vo, 10/6 net. Palæography.

Facsimiles of Bible MSS. in the British Museum, edited by F. G. Kenyon, folio, 10/

Philosophy.

Kedney (J. S.), Problems in Ethics, cr. 8vo, 6/

History and Biography.

Benger (G.), Rumania in 1900, translation by A. H. Keane, imp. 8vo, 10/ net.

Bengough (H. M.), Notes and Reflections on the Boer War, 3/

Geography and Travel.
Candler (B), A Vagabond in Asia, cr. 8vo, 6/
Cooks' Tourists' Handbook for Palestine and Syria, 12mo, 7/c-

Cicero, Ad Atticum, XIV., translated by E. S. Shuck-burgh, cr. 8vo, 2/6

Science.

Science.

Bailey (L. H.), Botany, cr. 8vo, 5/
Barr (W. M.), A Catechism on the Combustion of Coal and the Prevention of Smoke, cr. 8vo, 8/6 net.

Cheadle (W. B.), On Some Cirrhoses of the Liver, cr. 8vo, 5/
Jackson (E.), A Manual of Diseases of the Rye, 10/6 net.

Murray (G. R.), Diseases of the Thyroid Gland: Part 1,

Myxedema and Cretinism, 8vo, 7/8

Winchester College Examples in Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry, edited by G. Richardson, cr. 8vo, 5/

General Literature.

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Alexander (J. F. B.), Runs in Three Continents, 8vo. 7/6 net.
Bascom (J.), Growth of Nationality in the United States, 6/
Bell (H.), Bele Aliz, a Legend of Albury, Surrey, cr. 8vo, 5/
Bounder, The, cr. 8vo, 2/6 net.

Collins (G. E.), Tales of Pink and Silk, 8vo, 6/
Davidson (J.), Commercial Federation and Colonial Trade-

Davidson (J.), Commercial Federation and Colonial Trade-Policy, cr. 8vo, 2/6
Forgotten Melody, The, by One Who Remembers 1t, 5/
Frangipani's Hing, translated by J. F. C. L., 4to, 21/net.
Hampstead Annual, 1900, edited by G. E. Matheson and S. G.
Mayle, imp. 8vo, sewed, 2/6 net.
Harris (Hon. J.), Inferences from Haunted Houses and
Haunted Men, cr. 8vo, 2/6
Lingston (R.), Not Warranted Sound, cr. 8vo, 2/6
Medical Directory for 1901, 8vo, 14/
Mewbigging (T.), Lancashire Humour, 12mo, 2/6 net.
Royal Bi. e Book, roy. 18mo, 5/
Stables (G.) and others, Valour and Victory Stories, 4to, 5/;
bonds, 3/
Steel (R.). Imitation: or, the Mimetic Force in Nature and

Steel (R.), Imitation; or, the Mimetic Force in Nature and Human Nature, cr. 8vo, 3/

FOREIGN. Theology.

Lac (Du), Jésuites, 3fr. 50.

Fine Art and Archaelom. Dergeret (G.), Journal d'un Nègre à l'Exposition de 1900,

France (A.), Thaïs, 250fr. Huysmans (J. K.), La Bièvre, les Gobelins, Saint-Séverin,

150fr. Strzygowsky (J.), Orient od. Rom, 17m.

Political Economy. Razous (P.), La Sécurité du Travail dans l'Industrie, 12fr. 59.

Hesquard (C.), La Turquie sous Abdul-Hamid II., 8fr.
Hesquard (C.), La Turquie sous Abdul-Hamid II., 8fr.
Heierii (J.), Urgeschichte der Schweiz, 12m.
Kupke (G.), Nuntiaturen des P. Bertano u. P. Camaiani,
1550-2, 20m.

Krumbacher (K.), Die Moskauer Sammlung mittelgriech-ischer Sprichwörter, 3m.

Claude (G.), L'Électricité à la Portée du Tout le Monde, 6fr. Hauser (M.), L'Or, 10fr.

THE ARGONAUTS OF THE NEW AGE.

PERCY AYLWIN.

[In starlight in Gypsy Dell, listening to the Rington chimes in the distance, which sound clear through the leafless trees.

Say, will new heroes win the "Fleece," ye spheres Who, whether around some King of Suns ye roll Or move right onward to some destined goal In Night's vast heart, know what Great Morning

THE STARS.

Since Love's Star rose have nineteen hundred years Written such runes on Time's remorseless scroll, Impeaching Earth's proud birth, the human soul That we, the bright-browed stars, are dim with

Could Shakspeare, Goethe, compass man's release? What "Ship of Hope" shall sail to such a world?

[The night passes, and morning breaks as gorgeously over the tree tops as it broke many years before, when Rhona's face appeared to her lover.

PERCY AYLWIN.

Ye fade, ye stars, ye fade with Night's decease! Above you ruby rim of clouds empearled There, through the rosy flags of morn unfurled— I see young heroes bring Light's "Golden Fleece." THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON.

THE BOOK SALES OF 1900.

11.

WHEN a copy of the first edition of 'Lorna Doone, 3 vols., 1869, original cloth, sold at Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's for 13l., the price was thought to be high, but this was, nevertheless, advanced to 371. in June, though it declined to 261. in December. These amounts are not likely to be maintained, as I know of several equally good sets which are sure to be sold before long, and there are doubtless others in existence, the value of which is at present unknown to their owners. The stock of Nichols & Co., sold in April, contained a considerable number of books, nearly all in expensive bindings or else in expensive cases, for these booksellers knew better than to sacrifice "original boards" to morocco super extra. Thus they had enclosed a largepaper copy in boards of Byron's 'Hours of Idleness,' 1807, in a beautiful drop case of morocco, elaborately designed. It realized 25!. Hals's 'Cornwall,' c. 1750, brought 151, 10s.; at one time 601, or 701, was usual; indeed, in March, 1888, a copy in russia extra sold for 150l. Two copies of the Gallery of Illustrations to Victor Hugo's 'Romances,' vellum paper, 1895, brought 36l. and 40l. respectively, and one on Holland paper 31l. John Owen's 'Of Communion with God,' in a fine contemporary binding, 1700, 8vo, sold for 311.; and a Fourth Folio of Shakspeare's 'Works' brought 351. (imperfect).

On April 9th Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods dispersed some three hundred lots of books, which realized about 1,550l. feature of this sale was the Coverdale Bible of 1535, printed at Antwerp by Jacob van Meteren. It was defective, yet realized 3001. The Osterley and Leicester copies are the best, as Mr. Quaritch pointed out at the the Ashburnham (sold for 820t.) ranking third. At the same sale an imperfect copy of the First Folio brought 1701., and it is worthy of note that on March 29th Mr. Daly's had realized 5,400 dollars. They have been having some important sales at New York. In November last Poe's 'Tamerlane,' first edition, 1827, one of the three copies known, sold for 2,050 dollars; 'Al Aaraaf,' 1829, 1,100 dollars; and 'The Raven,' bound with the 'Tales,' and presented by Poe to Helen Whitman, 610 dollars, Mr. James

Hornby's library, sold at the end of April, contained complete sets of the Snob and the Gownsman, bound in 2 vols., and these realized 132l. Mr. J. T. Barber's library (April 25th) had been formed with great judg-

ment. It was mainly a botanical collection, On May 7th and 8th Col. Francis Grant's collection was sold at Wellington Street. Col. Grant was specially interested in the authors of the eighteenth century, such as De Foe, Pope, Swift, Dr. Johnson (whose biography he had written), Goldsmith, and others. With regard written), Goldsmith, and others. to these writers of the period he had a wide knowledge, and wrote much about them in the pages of the Athenaum, Notes and Queries, and other periodicals. These books brought and other periodicals. These books brought very good prices, especially the following: Dryden, 'A Poem upon the Death of the Lord Protector,' 1659, 4to, 21l. (unbound); 'Alexander's Feast,' 1697, 15l. 15s. Gay, 'The Wife of Bath,' 1713, 4to, 13l. (morocco). Goldsmith, 'The Vicar of Wakefield,' Salisbury, 2 vols., 1766, 49l. (calf); 'The Deserted Village,' 1770, 8vo (not the 4to of the same date), 21l.; and 'She Stoops to Conquer,' 1773, 8vo, 12l. 12s. (mor, ex). The Cotadate), 211.; and 'She Stoops to Conquer,' 1773, 8vo, 121. 12s. (mor. ex.). The Catalogue of Dr. Johnson's Library, sold by Christie on February 16th, 1785, and three following days, realized 25t. 10s. (half morocco). Ben Jonson, 'The Alchemist,' 1612, 4to, 22l. (title mounted). Pope, 'The Dunciad,' first edition and issue, 1728, 75l. (mor. ex., uncut); the same, first edition, but second issue, 50l. (ibid.); the same, second edition, 1728, 32l. (mor.). Shakspeare's 'King John, 1611, 4to, 281. (defective). Shenstone's 'The School Mistress,' 1742, 16l. (mor. ex.). Walton's 'Compleat Angler,' fourth edition, 1668, 151. 15s. (*ibid.*), with many more. At a miscellaneous sale, in which were many books on eard games collected by the well-known "Cavendish," a third edition of the 'Compleat Angler,' 1664, and the first edition of Venables's 'Experienced Angler,' Col. Venables's Experienced Angler, in 1 vol. 8vo, brought 31l. (old calf). The third edition of Walton is scarce, a number of copies having been burnt in the Fire of London. Some copies are dated 1661 and others 1664. Angling books have not been much in evidence during the year; in fact, old sporting treatises of all kinds seem to be comparatively neglected, though their value is much the same as heretofore. A good copy of Markham's ' Pleasures of Princes,' first edition, 1614, sm. 4to, brought 291. (calf extra) in June, and there the record about ends. Other noticeable books sold in May include Montesquieu's 'Le Temple de Gnide,' large paper, with an extra set of proof plates mounted (as usual) and added, 772, 4to, 571.; and Roger Williams's 'A Key into the Language of America,' 1643, 8vo, 35l This book is identified with the earliest printed attempt to give the language of the aborigines of New England a literary form. Thomas Bancroft's 'Two Bookes of Epigrammes,' first edition, 1639, 4to, produced 351. Epigrammes 118 and 119 are addressed to the memory of Shakspeare, whose pre-eminence is acknowledged at an early date, A stained and damaged copy of the first part of 'Robinson Crusoe,' 1719, 8vo, was dear enough, one would think, at 251. 10s., especially when conwould think, at 23t. 10s., especially when con-trasted with a sound copy of the 'Enchiridion' of Brasmus, printed by "Wynkyn de Worde for John Byddell" in 1533, 37t. The Herbal, shortly called 'Arbolayre' (Lyons, M. Husz, circa 1485), now brought 49t. The very same book, defective though it be, brought 861. in March, 1898 (the same faults disclosed). One of the most important books sold during the year contained a number of pieces by Spenser, including 'Complaints' (1591), 'Fowre including 'Complaints' (1591), 'Fowre Hymnes' (1596), and 'Daphnaida' (1596), all in very good order. This realized 1401. 'Helen's Tower,' by Tennyson, brought 231. 10s.; the 'Poems, chiefly Lyrical,' 1830, 141.; and an elaborately bound convertible. 141.; and an elaborately bound copy of the 'Whole Duty of Man,' folio, 1704, 421.

A selection of books sold by Messrs. Sotheby on May 25th and 26th contained a number of on May 20th and 20th contained a number of important classical works—e.g., Cicero, 'Orationes,' 1472, folio, 211. (old morocco); 'De Oratore ad Quintum Fratrem,' Paris, 1540, folio, 611.; and Ovid's 'Metamorphoses,' Paris, 4 vols., 1767-71, 34l. (old morocco). A very fair Second Folio of Shakspeare's Plays sold at this sale for 711. Passing the library of Mr. William R. Hughes, of Birmingham, which was sold on May 31st, and a series of first editions of Dickens's works, mostly in parts, which Messrs. Christie sold on date, we come to the Inglis sale held on June 11th and three following days. Mr. Inglis, who died at Hampstead in 1870 at the age of ninety years, belonged to the old school of collectors which interested itself chiefly with books by early English printers and early printed books with woodcuts. The first portion of Mr. Inglis's collection had been sold in 1826, the second in 1871, and now the third portion was disposed of, 849 "lots" realizing no less than 7,5001. Reference must be made to the catalogue itself, or to pp. 529-88 of the new volume of 'Book-Prices Current,' for details of this sale, which was of great importance and could not be dealt with in a few lines. Short reference may, however, he made to a volume of tracts, containing inter alia the Columbus letter in Latin of May, 1493, which realized 2301.; the two parts in English of 'Don Quixote,' issued together in 1620, small 4to, 561.; Machlinia's excessively rare edition of the 'St. Alban's Chronicle' (circa 1484), 1751. (four leaves in facsimile); a copy of another edition of the Columbus letter in Latin, 1494, 90l.; and several very scarce Hore, notably Paris, Vostre, 1512-30, on vellum, 100l., and Paris, Geoffroy Tory, 1525, 144l. The Ashburnham copy on vellum of this last - named book realized 8601. Rolle de-Hampole's 'Explanationes Notabiles,' an excessively rare book, attributed to the press of Rood & Hunt, of Oxford, cannot be over-looked, as the bibliographers appear to have missed this particular copy, which realized 3001. It was printed between 1481 and 1486. The Peel heirlooms, sold in June by order It was printed between 1481 and of the Chancery Division, realized 5,8801, at Messrs, Robinson & Fisher's. A collection of political caricatures brought 5001.; a large copy of the editio princeps of Homer, 1488,. 1951.; an extra-illustrated copy of Lysons's 'Environs of London,' extended to 15 vols., folio, 1796 (Lysons's own copy), 350l.; and four scrap-books containing scarce portraits of the English School, mezzotints chiefly, 7231. At the end of June a selection from the of the late Mr. Harvey, of St. James's Street, realized good prices. This sale was remarkable for the large number of old plays by Dryden, Ford, Sheridan Knowles, Massinger, and Shirley. Another Second Folio Shak-speare realized 901. (some leaves in facsimile). The sale of Mr. Virtue Tebbs's library in June was an important one, though no sensational prices were realized. In July the late Mr. Andrew Tuer's collections of children's books and horn-books came to the hammer. Mr. Tuer had gathered together forty-five examples of the horn-book, being about a third of the total number known. These realized 2691. Lamb's 'Beauty and the Beast,' Godwin, n.d., sold for 43l. (wrappers); 'Prince Dorus,' 1811, 42l. (ibid.); and 'Poetry for Children,' 2 vols. 1809, 811. (front., title, and contents of vol. i. in facsimile, original boards).

Later in July forty-one vols. and eight parts of the Ibis, 1859-99, a very desirable set, sold for 631. 10s.; and there were several Shakspeareitems, notably the Tyrrell MS. from the Phillipps Collection, 451.; the Second, Third, and Fourth Folios, the lowest price given being 20l. and the highest 48l. 10s.; 'Love's Labour Lost,' 1631, 4to, 41l. (defective); 'Othello,' 1655, 4to, 25l.; and 'Macbeth,' 1673, 4to, 1131. (old calf, entirely uncut). Turherville's 'Epitaphs, Songs, and Sonets,' 1570, Svo, realized 105!. Sir Frederick Bathurst's library was remarkable for a First Folio Shakspeare, 136l. (imperfect), and a fine copy of the Fourth Folio, 78l. Later on another imperfect copy of the First Folio sold for 252l., and with that the season closed, showing that about 38,000 lots of books had been sold for \$7,0001., the worst average since 1896.

The new season, which commenced, as usual, in October last, promises better things. At Edinburgh on December 6th Mr. Dowell sold the copy of Paschalius's 'Eloge de Henri II.' which had belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots, for 1701.; and in November several of Blake's mystical productions realized high prices at Puttick's: 'Europe,' 'The Song of Los,' and the 'Daughters of Albion,' in one volume, folio, with some drawings added, produced 2251., and 'The Book of Thel,' 1789, 461. (wrappers). In December the autograph manuscript of 'Angels and Devils,' illustrated with forty-two original drawings by Blake, realized 361. It is a curious fact that ten years ago the same MS. sold for no less than 2351. (Crawford sale). The sale of Lord Ashburton's library, held on November 14th and following days, disclosed quite a number of old American books—e.g., 'A Relation of Maryland,' 1635, 165l. (unbound); 'New England Plantation,' 1630, 98l. York,' 1670, 4001.; 'Virginia's Cure,' 1662, 4to, 76l.; Lederer's 'Discoveries in Three Several Marches from Virginia,' 1672, 4to, 1021.; Capt. John Smith's 'Advertisements for the Inexperienced Planters,' for the Inexperienced Planters,' 1631, 1601. (unbound); and Winslow's 'Good Newes from New England,' 1624, 4to, 2401. (calf gilt). On November 26th and 27th Mr. Newnham Davis's library caused considerable comment, the gem of the collection being Littleton's 'Tenures, printed by the first London craftsmen, Lettou & Machlinia, in small folio, about 1483. This book realized 400l., while Glanville's 'De Proprietatibus Rerum,' printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1496, brought 212l. (some leaves mended). Reference may also be made to 'Le Manuel des Dames,' Paris, small 4to, 1001.; the first Latin edition of the 'Hortus Sanitatis,' circa 1501, folio, 691.; the first edition of Decker's 'Satiro Mastix,' 1602, 951. (modern morocco); and the 'Carmen de Sponsalibus,' printed in small 4to by Pynson in 1514, 1601. (modern vellum). Other books worthy of special mention sold about this time in-clude an uncut copy of Browning's 'Pauline,' 1201.; Scott's 'Waverley,' first edition, 3 vols. 1814, boards, but the half-title to each volume missing, 1151.; and an autograph manuscript called the 'Puppet Show,' written by Ruskin at ten years of age, and illustrated with fifty seven coloured drawings. This was disposed of privately.

The concluding sales of the century, which, by the way, is the second during which at least three of the firms of literary auctioneers whose names have been mentioned have been in existence, were quite up to the average of past days. Good books of the most desirable class are scarcer than they have ever been, but for all that the new century will probably be middle-aged at least before the great public libraries here and in America wholly cease from troubling the honest bookman whose contemplative soul is with Caxton and De Worde. Yet for him there is more than hope. He may safely exult in the certainty that every one of the new institutions of this kind which may rise out of the mist of the twentieth century will have to be satisfied with facsimiles and reprints. In time they may grow rich and great, but no matter. They will have been born too late. matter.

J. H. SLATER.

CHARLES LAMB AS A LANDED PROPRIETOR.

READERS of the 'Essays of Elia' will remember that in 'My First Play' Lamb gives us in his own inimitable manner a brilliant thumb-nail sketch of his godfather F., "most gentlemanly of oilmen." It is a tribute to the memory of one who, when living, opened to Lamb more than Arabian paradises by such simple talismans as pit orders to old Drury Lane Theatre, and, when dead, put him "into possession of the only landed property which he ever could call his own, situate near the roadway village of pleasant Puckeridge in Hertfordshire." It has ever been a matter of conjecture where and what this landed property was. In Canon Ainger's edition of the Essays of Elia' (Macmillan, 1898) he says in a note that

"Mrs. Proctor informs me that a relative of Lamb's did actually bequeath him a small 'landed estate'—probably no more than a single field producing a pound or two of rent, and that Lamb was fond of referring to the circumstance, and declaring that it had revolutionized his ideas of Property."

And elsewhere he crackles out one of his little jokes about having a stake in the country, referring, of course, to the same thing. "When I journeyed down," he says in the essay,

essay,
"to take possession, and planted foot on my own ground, the stately habits of the donor descended upon me, and I strode (shall I confess the vanity?) with larger paces over my allotment of three-quarters of an acre, with its commodious mansion in the midst, with the feelings of an English free-holder that all betwixt sky and centre is my own. The estate has passed into more prudent hands, and not him but an agrainn can restore it." nothing but an agrarian can restore it.

Three-quarters of a century after it passed out of Lamb's possession I am happy to tell the world—or that small portion of it to whom any fact about his life is precious-exactly where and what this landed property is. By indentures of lease and release dated the 23rd and 24th of March, 1779, George Merchant and Thomas Wyman, two yeomen of Braughing in the county of Hertford, conveyed to Francis Fielde, of the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, in the county of Middlesex, oilman, for the consideration of 201., all that messuage or tenement, with the orchard, gardens, yards, barns, edifices, and buildings, and all and singular the appurtenances therewithal used or occupied, situate, lying, and being at West Mill Green in the parish of Buntingford West Mill in the said county of Hertford, &c. March 5th, 1804, Francis Fielde, of New Cavendish Street, Esq., made his will, and, with the exception of two annuities to female relatives, left all his residuary estate, real and personal, to his wife Sarah Fielde.

This will was proved on November 5th, 1809. By indentures of lease and release dated August 20th and 21st, 1812, Sarah Fielde conveyed the said property to Charles Lamb, of Inner Temple Lane, gentleman. By an indenture of feoffment dated February 15th, 1815, made between the said Charles Lamb of the first part, the said Sarah Fielde of the second part, and Thomas Greg the younger, of Broad Street Buildings, London, Esq., the said property was conveyed to the said Thomas Greg the younger for 501.

The said Thomas Greg the younger died in 1839, and left the said property to his nephew, Robert Philips Greg, now of Coles Park, West Mill, in the same county; and the said Robert Philips Greg in 1884 conveyed it to his nephew, Thomas Tylston Greg, of 15, Clifford's Inn, London, in whose possession it now is in substantially the same condition as it was in 1815.

The evidence that the Charles Lamb who conveyed the property in 1815 is Elia himself is overwhelming.

1. The essay itself gives the locality correctly: it is about two and a half miles from Puckeridge.

2. The plot of land contains as near as possible three-quarters of an acre, with an old thatched cottage and small barn standing upon The barn, specially mentioned in all the deeds, is a most unusual adjunct of so small a cottage. The property, the deeds of which go back to 1708, appears to have been isolated and held by small men, and consists of a long narrow tongue of land jutting into the property now of the Savile family (Earls of borough), but formerly of the Earls of Hard-

wicke.
3. The witness to Charles Lamb's signature on the deed of 1815 is William Hazlitt, of 19, York Street, Westminster.

4. Lamb was living in Inner Temple Lane in 1815, and did not leave the Temple till 1817. 5. The essay was printed in the London Magazine for December, 1821, six years after "the estate has passed into more prudent

6. And lastly, the following letter in Charles Lamb's own handwriting, found with the deeds which are in my possession, clinches the matter:

MR. SARGUS,—This is to give you notice that I have parted with the Cottage to Mr. Grig Junr. to whom you will pay rent from Michaelmas last. The rent that was due at Michaelmas I do not wish you to pay me. I forgive it you as you may have been at some expences in repairs.

Yours CH. LAMB.

Inner Temple Lane, London. 23 Feb. 1815,

hands.

It is certainly not the fact that Lamb acquired the property, as he states, by the will of his godfather, for it was conveyed to him some three years after the latter's death by Mrs. Fielde. But strict accuracy of fact in Lamb's 'Essays' we neither look for nor desire. In all probability Mrs. Fielde conveyed him the property in accordance with an expressed wish of her husband in his lifetime. Reading also between the lines of the essay, it is interesting to notice that Francis Fielde, the Holborn oilman of 1779, in 1809 has become Francis Fielde, Esq., of New Cavendish Street. In the letter quoted above Lamb speaks of his purchaser as "Mr. Grig Junr.," more, I am inclined to think, from his desire to have his little joke than from mere inaccuracy, for he must have known the correct name of his purchaser. But Mr. Greg, Jun., was only just twenty-one when he bought the property, and the expression "as merry as a running in Lamb's mind might have proved irresistible to him. Lastly, the property is now called, and has been so far back as I can trace, "Button Snap." No such name is found in any of the title-deeds, and it was impossible before to understand whence it arose. Now it is not: Lamb must have so christened his little property in jest, and the THOMAS GREG. name has stuck.

THE DATE OF KING ALFRED'S DEATH.

Blackbeath, Dec. 31st, 1900.

In the many discussions on this subject I In the many discussions on the have been often surprised to find how com-Anscombe's letter in your last issue forms no Anscended to this rule, but he will find the point to which I allude discussed by myself in Notes and Queries, 9th S. iv. 435. The dates in the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle' during the latter part of the ninth century have evidently fallen into some confusion, but we seem to have the means of rectifying at any rate a portion of them by a celestial witness which cannot deceive us. A great eclipse of the sun (total over part of England) occurred on the 29th of October, A.D. 878. In the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle' an eclipse of the sun is stated to have taken place in A.D. 879, and though its day is not mentioned, it is impossible to doubt that it was the total one before mentioned. As the 'Chronicle' places it in the year after

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the great victory of Alfred over the Danes the date of that must have been 877, not 878 as commonly given. The subsequent events up to the time of the death of Alfred are also erroneously dated; but it would seem to be doubtful whether some of the later ones are one year or two years in error. In giving the date of the king's death as A.D. 901, the 'Chronicle' adds that he had held the kingdom (reigned) one year and a half less than thirty winters. Now under date 871 we are told that he took the kingdom, on the death of his brother Ethelred, after Easter, and if we take this in connexion with the above statement as to the length of his reign, it would bring the date of his death to A.D. 899, in the autumn. Simeon of Durham gives that as the year, and Ethelwerd says that Edward was crowned on Whitsunday, A.D. 900, which is quite consistent with this. I contend, therefore, that the millenary of the death of England's darling was completed more than a year ago.
W. T. Lynn.

> DANTE TRANSLATION SEEN IN 1540. Wood End, Weybridge.

WITH regard to Canon Church's recent paper before the Society of Antiquaries, I do not think we need seek very far for the identification of the 'Dantes translatus in carmen Latinum' which Leland saw in Bishop Bubwith's library at Wells, when we remember that Bubwith was one of the two English bishops (Hallam of Salisbury being the other) for whom John of Serravalle wrote his commentary while the three were at Constanz for the Council. True, the Italian prelate's Latin version is hardly "carmen"; but is it uncharitable to suppose that Leland was content to see the outside only of the look he described? It is curious, though, that Dean Plumptre, who makes great play with Serravalle's statement (probably invented for the benefit of his English friends) that Dante studied at Oxford, should, for all that appears, have been unaware of the likelihood that his own chapter library had once possessed a copy of the commentary. Of course, there is just the possibility that the "carmen Latinum" may have been the hexameters of Matteo Ronto, whose version dates from about the same period.

A. J. B.

ANOTHER NEW THEORY AS TO HUCHOWN. December 31st, 1900

If we English are to recover Huchown from the Scots, may I put in a better claim than that of Cumberland by pointing out as a curious fact that in or about the year 1256 a certain Malcolm, a native of Scotland, with unknown malefactors in his train, broke into the house of Hugo de Aula, near the village of Ryhull', now Ryal, which was fined for not joining in the pursuit when the hue and cry was raised?—

"Quidam Malcolumb', natus de Scocia, et socii sui malefactores ignoti burgaverunt domum Hugonis de Aula..... Et hutesium levatum fuit, et villatæ de Ryhull' et Ingon non fecerunt sectam, ideo in misericordia."— 'Northumberland Assize Rolls,' Surtees Society, p. 90.

The victim here was evidently a Huehown of the Awle, Ryal, who perhaps may have been grandsire to the Huehown of the Awle Ryale. In that case the burglarious tendencies of Malcolm and his colleagues would, on the lines of Mr. Bradley's proposition, appear to have been only too faithfully imitated by Scottish reivers among the literary antiquaries of the present century. Should not my own county of Northumberland at any rate participate in the new hutesium after the kidnapped Huehown?

J. A. Neilson.

General Register House, Edinburgh, Dec 29th, 1900.

I HAVE read with interest Mr. Henry Bradley's suggestion as to this writer in your issue of December 15th, and while I am disposed to think

favourably of some of his views, I think he is mistaken or not sufficiently advised on one point. He writes in regard to Hugh and Hucheoun that these "names were originally But in the fourteenth and fifidentical. teenth centuries they seem to have been as distinct in use as James and Jacob are now.' It is not clear whether the reference is to English or to Scottish usage. If the latter, I venture to differ from him. There is an instance of Wyntoun's own date. In the Report of the Commission on Historical MSS., No. XIV. App. iii. p. 13 (Duke of Roxburghe's MSS.), is a document dated in 1391, in which a certain "Howioun off ffodrygame" is mentioned in connexion with certain lands. That writ is in the vernacular, and "Howioun" merely a form of "Hucheoun." The next writ is Latin in the original, and from it we gather that the late Hugh ("Hugo") of Fothryngham died in 1403 and was succeeded by his son. This is the earliest instance that I can recall of the name as a Christian name, and is, as I stated, contemporary with Wyntoun. It is not easy to give instances from memory only, but if Mr. Bradley will consult 'The History of the Roses of Kilravock,' (Old) Spalding Club edition, 'The Chiefs of Grant,' by William Fraser, and compare these with entries in the printed Register of the Great Seal down to 1600, he will find, I think, that "Hucheoun," where used as a Christian name, is the invariable equivalent of "Hugo" in the Latin, which is also a rendering of "Hew" in the vernacular.

This also agrees with my own experience of MS. Scottish records and writs, and as it is impossible to give references to these, I may add that the experience of others who are conversant with such MSS. is in accordance with my own. If, therefore, "Hugo" be "Hugh," the word "Hucheoun," which appears as a Christian name during the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, is certainly Hugh also, or its direct equivalent.

JOHN ANDERSON.

PAPERS OF WILLIAM PENN.

A most interesting and important series of letters, documents, &c., in the autograph of and addressed to William Penn, will be sold by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, & Hodge in February next. These documents have never before appeared in the market, and are the property of Lady Sudeley, who inherited them from her uncle, to whom they were bequeathed by Lady Sudeley's cousin, Granville-Penn, great-grandson of William Penn. The twenty-six articles are to be sold en bloc, and include Penn's "Last will and Testament made and writt in my own hand this twentyth day of ye 8th month of ye year 1705 in ye 60 year of my age." This interesting document covers four pages quarto, and is signed "Wm. Penn." A codicil s added, covering three pages quarto, dated 8th of 8th, 1706," and also dated at the end "21st the sixth month 1707," signed "Wm. Penn," and witnessed by Tno. Cuppage and Cha. Willcocks. The whole of the will and the bandwriting of William Penn, except the signatures of the witnesses. There are two other important Penn documents: one is a copy of a letter to Archbishop Tillotson from him, entirely in his antograph and signed "Wm. Penn." It runs to three pages folio, is dated August 30th, 1691, and contains the following passage:-

"If I were as guilty as it is sayd or believed, Is ye King implacable or ye offence unpardonable? or must Irish men only have good conditions, and none but Scotchmen get remissions? Then would I were not an Englishman, my faults are too small to be forgiven, if nothing but Rebellion be fitt for grace."

The second is an autograph letter from Penn to Lord Romney, dated "Pennsylvania, 6 7th month, 1701," and extends to twelve pages quarto. The following extract wil indicate its interest:—

"I have heard of the very unfaire treatment some have given me in my absence, what I am apt to think one word from the King (if I could deserveit) could alter. I was thus attacked in King James time, and when he came to know the ruine it would prove to me and my family, he cryed out, God forbid, he would never be the author of such a cruelty. I received it in consideration of the debt of £16,000 oweing to my father in 80, and that I have expended above twenty thousand pounds upon it; to sign and carry it into the conditions it is now in. I can prove as well as solemnly attest whose interests doubles ye sum. It was sett at £12,000, to such as would have bought it of ye Duke of York, I took it upon ye encouragement of my interest to render it considerable and not upon its own vallue, and dropt ye prosecution of my debt, a case well known to ye Duke of Leeds, Earl of Dorset, Charles Bertie, &c., &c."

Another interesting letter is from Lord Broghill to Penn, dated May 18th, 1670, in which he says:—

"Had I as much power as formerly I have had, it should bee Imployed to serve you, and in the capacity I now am in shall doe you what kindnesse-I can. I hope to see you write ere long as much in ye defence of ye Protestant Religion as you have for the profession of the Quakers."

A second letter from the same to "William Penn att Holland House nere Kensington" is an invitation to call on him,

Equally interesting also is one in reference to Penn written by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, to the Lord Treasurer, dated June 16th, 1678; it covers two pages quarto, and includes the following sentence:—

"Though I make no question but Mr. Penn may upon his own score expect a favour from your Lordship and by consequence must expect a piece of Justice, yet Mr. Sheapheard is soe earnest with mee to write to your Lordship in his behalfe, and I have so great an inclination to doe Mr. Penn in all things all the service that lyes in my power that I could not avoyde the giving your Lordship thetrouble of reading this letter," &c.

There are many other articles and documents of note, especially a MS. in Penn's autograph, covering 138 pages 12mo, being "My Irish Journal farthest from London on ye 15 of ye 7th month, 1669," giving many interesting details of his life, &c., in Ireland. Another consists of a contemporary copy of the 'Minutes of Council at the Committee of Trade and Plantations at the Council Chamber at Whitehall, 'dated August 3rd, 1694, in reference to the rights of William Penn to Pennsylvania, &c.; it extends to eight and a half pages folio. W. R.

THE SECOND CASKET LETTER.

St. Andrews, January 2nd, 1901.

As every one interested in Mary Stuart knows, great difficulties beset the authenticity of the second of her alleged letters to Bothwell from Glasgow. It can only have been written on the nights of January 21st, 22nd, 1567, and dispatched on the 23rd. No other scheme will harmonize with facts and with the confession of the bearer, "French Paris," in August, 1569. I will take the chronological difficulties in order, following Mr. Henderson's texts in his 'Casket Letters,' pp. 127-41 (1889).

1. (P. 128) "The King sent for Joachim yesternicht" ("3estrene" in another MS. which has been collated). "Yesternight" does not occur in the English translation, which was so hastily made that omissions are frequent. Accepting "yesternight" as genuine, we have three days—"yesterday," "to-day" (first day of writing, January 21st), and "to-morrow" (the second day of writing, January 22nd), Now, if Mary was in Glasgow for a day before the first day of writing, the letter is a forgery, or the confession of Paris is a lie. But (as M. Phillipson has seen) Joachim may have entered Glasgow on the day before Mary's arrival, conveying tapestries, beds, &c. We:

may thus hold that Mary is writing on the night of her arrival, January 21st.

2. We have no hint of a date till she says that she will ask Darnley "to-morrow" about a certain point. The letter, in the same paragraph, tells us what Darnley confessed "to-morrow"—that is, on the second day of her writing, January 22nd (p. 131).

3. But after some five hundred words we meet the phrases, "This is my first journey" (day's work), "I will end to-morrow.......I do here a work that I hate much, but I had begun it this morning." (The italicized passage in English, not in Scots.)

This is a sheer impossibility. On p. 131 Mary tells what occurred on her second day; on p. 133 she says that it is her first day's work. I suggest the following explanation. On January 21st, her first night, she wrote as far as "To-morrow I will speak with him on this point." and these words were the last on, and at the foot of, a page. On a fresh page she went on writing (p. 133), "This is my first journey," down to "I had begun it this morning," if we accept the English additional clause, which is not in the Scots text. On the following night she took that page, but began to write on the verso, not observing that there were words already written on it. She continued till she came to "This is my first journey," &c., which she had written the night before. Perhaps she ran her pen lightly through the passage, as through several lines in her draft of a sonnet in the Bodleian Library. (See the facsimile of the sonnet in Hosack, (See the facsimile of the sonnet in Hosack, II. xxiv.) The translators, however, translated the sentences, which therefore, where they stund, make a chaos of the chronology. Restore the sentences "This is my first journey," &c., from p. 133 to p. 131, and the sense is complete. The letter henceforth is the world of the second wight and is forth is the work of the second night and is sent by French Paris on January 23rd. By a similar accident, as is admitted, Mary on the second night came on her list of memoranda of topics at the back of a sheet, and in closing the letter she apologized for their intrusion. But there is here this difficulty, that her apology runs (English), "I had no paper yesternight when I took the paper of a memorial." Now, by my theory, it was this night, the second night of writing, when she embarked on the paper containing her memoranda, written the night before for the arrangement of her letter, in sequence closely followed by her. The Scots text is, "I had na paper sesterday quhen I wrait that of the memorial,' the memoranda (p. 141). As usual, at every critical point the translations are discrepant. Otherwise my theory seems to explain the chronology. A. LANG.

Literary Gossip.

We are glad to hear that Mr. F. S. Ellis contemplates writing his reminiscences, which cannot fail to be interesting. Mr. Ellis must have a very large store of anecdotes of rare books and book collectors, and his stories would have the great merit of being authentic. Also, he is one of the few surviving early friends of William Morris, D. G. Rossetti—for both of whom he acted as publisher—and of many others who have achieved eminence in various ways and are no longer with us. His early recollections of Richmond alone would make a very interesting chapter.

SIR EDWARD MALET has written some reminiscences of his official life, which will be published during the spring by Mr. Murray.

It is hoped that the portrait of Dr. Furnivall by Mr. Rothenstein will be ready

for presentation at the dinner in his honour to be given on his birthday.

The Times having stated that that journal came into existence January 1st, 1788, a correspondent, whose letter is printed in the Times of Tuesday last, replied that the Times was born three years earlier, although the name, indeed, was different. There was published some time ago a note in a pocketbook of a Mr. Duncombe, in the possession of Sir Charles Dilke, his great-grandson, in which it is stated that at the time of the birth of the Times under its present name "Mr. Longman called upon" Mr. Duncombe to solicit his "support for a periodical paper" which was to be called the Times; showing that the Times was regarded as a new venture, rather than as the continuation of the Daily Universal Register.

THE editor of the Publishers' Circular has produced an interesting table of books published last year. As might be expected, they fall short of those of the two previous years in numbers. Counting new editions, we find the total of books for 1899 was 7,567, and for last year 7,149. More than a hundred books have been published during the last six months on the South African war. The section of new novels and juvenile books was well over 1,500 last year, though it has been considerably higher.

MR. FISHER UNWIN will publish in the coming spring a translated English edition of Prof. Pasquale Villari's 'The Barbarian Invasion of Italy.' The author relieves his history by vivid pictures of the Christian giants who flourished in the days of the Goths and the Huns, and picturesque legends, which he is careful not to treat as history. The complicated relations between the Popes and emperors, and the decline of the empire, besides the growth of the temporal power, are described. Maps and an index will accompany the book.

In the forthcoming number of the English Historical Review Sir Henry Howorth, K.C.I.E, will publish a further instalment of his 'Early History of Babylonia'; Prof. Maitland writes on 'Canon Law in England,' in reply to Dr. MacColl; Mr. Jenner, Her Majesty's Minister at Guatemala, gives an 'Account of Drake's Voyages,' from the memoirs of a nearly contemporary Franciscan friar; and Mr. Basil Williams continues his study of 'The Foreign Policy of England under Walpole.'

THE meritorious efforts of Miss Werner, who has been holding classes for Zulu and Cape Dutch in Westminster since the autumn, have been recognized by the authorities of King's College, London, and her classes will during the coming term meet in the College.

MESSRS. CONSTABLE & Co. will shortly publish a new novel by Katharine Tynan, with the title of 'That Sweet Enemy.'

Mr. A. H. Inman will issue very shortly, through Mr. Elliot Stock, a new work on Domesday which will give some fresh information concerning the statistics which have been drawn from Domesday, and on other points which refer to agricultural tenures in feudal times. The title is 'Domesday and Feudal Statistics; with a Chapter on Agricultural Statistics.' The author, from his knowledge of agriculture,

attempts to refute some accepted theories, which have been deduced from original records and have remained unchallenged to the present day.

In view of the Alfred Millenary which will be celebrated this year, Messrs. J. M. Dent & Co. are issuing very shortly a new volume, entitled 'Alfred the West Saxon, England's King,' by the Rev. D. Macfadyen. Some interesting illustrations will be included.

THE new volume for January in the "Temple Cyclopædic Primers" will be 'Australasia, the Commonwealth and New Zealand,' by Mr. Arthur W. Jose.

THE death is announced of Dr. Ignatius Donnelly, whose misplaced ingenuity on Shakspeare gave him a kind of reputation; and of B. H. Baden-Powell, who wrote some able books on questions of Indian land tenure.

AT Easter there will be a reception in Paris, by three of the five Academies which form the Institute (the Academie Française and the Academie des Beaux-Arts being excluded), of all similar bodies in the world, and the Royal Society will attend from the United Kingdom. The visit will not improbably be returned in London in 1904.

GOETHE'S 'Urfaust,' the poet's sketch of his great work, which was discovered by Erich Schmidt, and published for the use of "students of literary history," was some time ago "declaimed" in Berlin by Niemann-Raabe and Alois Prasch, with questionable success, as we are told. We see from the Swiss papers that the same performers are now carrying the 'Urfaust' upon a tournée to the Swiss towns. It proved so little of an attraction at Zurich, however, that the literary circles in Båle, and also in Berne, have declined to welcome the readers.

It is noteworthy that, notwithstanding the repressive measures lately adopted towards newspapers in Finland, the total number of Finnish and Swedish periodicals published there during 1900 was 216, of which 135 were in Finnish, 76 in Swedish, and 5 in both languages. The total is only one less than that of 1899.

Charing Cross Road is apparently not to be monopolized by the second-hand book trade, for a firm of discount booksellers have opened within the last few days a large and handsome shop in that thoroughfare. Within the last week or two, also, a new bookseller's shop has been opened up in Pall Mall. We have often wondered at the comparative poverty of certain districts in any facilities for book-buying, whereas other areas seem over-supplied.

SCIENCE

BOOKS ON ELECTRICITY.

The Theory of Electrolytic Dissociation and some of its Applications. By Harry C. Jones. (Macmillan & Co.)—In these days of innumerable books on chemical subjects it is rarely that we can point to one which deals with a branch of chemical work hitherto not treated in book form; yet such is the case in this instance, for so far various original papers—not easily accessible to the ordinary student—have been the only literature on the subject. Mr. Harry Jones is an associate in physical chemistry in Johns Hopkins University, and writes pre-eminently

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as an authority. This may be seen throughout the pages of this book from beginning to end. It is an extremely carefully written treatise, though possibly the arrangement and method of handling the subject might have been better. In these pages Mr. Jones has dealt exhaustively with the origin and development of the theory of electrolytic dissociation. We also have here an examination of some of the more important lines of evidence bearing upon the theory; and, finally, some applications of the theory in chemistry, physics, and biology are presented in these pages. Mr. Jones seems to answer some of the following questions: What was physical chemistry before the theory of electrolytic dissociation was put forward? How did the theory arise? Is it true? What is its scientific use? It may be fairly urged that a closer acquaintance with the facts here set forth will well serve to stimulate a further interest in physical chemistry in a way that is already manifesting itself in many and various directions. Mr. Jones's book is well got up, and has a very complete index.

Flame, Electricity, and the Camera. By George It is hard to say for whom Mr. Hes wrote his treatise. It has an extraordinarily American sub title as follows: 'Man's Progress from the First Kindling of Fire to the Wireless Telegraph and the Photography of Colour.' From the wording of this one is led to imagine that the author intended his book mainly as a light and airy historical treatise, and to that description it answers fairly well, provided that its statements are not relied on. But the reviewer is led to ask, What is the use of a book of this character? If instruction forms no part of the writer's design, and recreation and amusement only are intended, then surely the latter is already supplied in a much more definite and satisfactory manner. We have here a portrait of Michael Faraday with the words underneath, "Holding a bar of heavy glass." Surely, if it was desired to illustrate humanity holding heavy glass, there is no necessity to "draw in" Faraonly are intended, then surely the latter is glass, there is no necessity to "draw in" Fara-day; on the other hand, if it is desired to do Faraday homage, this might well be done in a more thorough and suitable manner. There are various other portraits, and as a frontispiece some butterflies. The illustrations fairly indicate the unique plan adopted of mixing up subjects that in reality have little in common. For instance, there is a chapter, 'Motive Power from Fire,' and as an illustration of the same we have a view of the Westinghouse - Parsons turbo-alternator. Altogether, though very nicely got up, this book can only be described as a popular "hotch-potch" of entirely disconnected heterogeneous matter, which is an oddity even in these days of cheap science. Probably very few, if any, of the illustrations are original, and certainly the source of a large number can be traced besides that of those already acknowledged in the preface. So highly prized is advertisement in the United States that it seems to be thought by some authors of books really emanating from America that, if only a reference is made to the author of a book, it is in no sense necessary to acknowledge having drawn from his book either in regard to text matter or illustrations.

Electric Bells. Edited by Paul N. Hasluck. (Cassell & Co.)—This little book describes in some detail how to make and fit bells actuated by electricity, and deals at length with electric batteries, conductors and wiring, indicators, pushes, switches, burglar alarms, &c. It is eminently suited for the amateur who employs electric bells, being written in a style that even a novice could scarcely fail to comprehend. Originating in the form of a series of articles written by different authors, which appeared in the columns of Work, the matter

has been rearranged and brought entirely up to date by Mr. Hasluck as editor of that journal. The first chapter deals concisely and yet sufficiently for the purpose with the theory of the subject, being entitled 'The Electric Current and the Laws that govern It.' The physical, mechanical, and other analogies adopted here and elsewhere to bring home the principles of electric pressure, conduction, &c., are distinctly good. The remaining chapters deal with the apparatus used, and are all very well arranged. We can confidently recommend this little book to any one wishing to understand a little about the working of the bells he has around him, or to the student or mechanic. It is well and abundantly illustrated throughout, besides being admirably arranged and indexed.

What is Heat? and What is Electricity? By F. Hovenden. (Chapman & Hall)—The author of this ambitious treatise, though a member of the Physical Society and Secretary to the London Institution, has a low opinion of physicists. He pours scorn on their atomic and other theories, and is especially severe on the expositions contained in Maxwell's 'Heat.' The following are some of the leading features of his own views, stated, as far as is consistent with brevity, in his own words: "When ether is uninfluenced by external forces, it rises from the surface of the earth or anti-gravitates. When atoms or molecules absorb this fluid they increase in volume" in proportion to the quantity absorbed, "and thus become specifically lighter." The difference in their dimensions arising from this cause "is what is called the temperature of the atom or molecule."

"At certain dimensions resulting from the internal pressure of the ether, they are in a condition which permits them to get one into the other and thus absorb one another. This process of overwrapping is called b nding or chemicat combination."

"When the atom or molecule in the liquid con-

"When the atom or molecule in the liquid condition increases in temperature, or to a certain volume, it suddenly absorbs a considerable quantity of the ether and becomes a vesicle of ether. This is the gaseous condition of the atom or molecule. This operation can be seen by means of a [low-power] microscope";

and full directions are given for performing the experiment. "All vapours and gases are elastic vesicles of ether." "When external pressure is applied to them the ether is mechanically pressed out of the atoms or molecules." "Hence the compression of a gas in a cylinder makes the cylinder warm," "while contrariwise the compressed gas loses ether, that is temperature." To the question what is meant by the word temperature, the answer is given:

"Volume obviously is temperature......pressure on gases decreases volume, that is temperature; and inversely release of pressure increases the volume of the gases; the molecules expand or increase in volume by their own inherent power.....this is rise in temperature."

The above are fair specimens of the contributions to knowledge contained in this handsome octavo volume. The author's own opinion of them is—
"for the first time we have absolutely definite ideas for every term, and these ideas are all harmonious. If no mietake has been made, what a progressive step has been effected! It is not a discovery, it is a revelation."

We are loth to disturb such a pleasing dream.

BOTANICAL LITERATURE.

Studies in Fossil Botany. By Dukinfield Henry Scott. (Black.)—The rapid advance that has been made of late years in our knowledge of the minute anatomy of plants has been appropriately reflected in the progress made in unravelling the structure and the history of fossil-plants. It is noteworthy that whilst certain types have vanished altogether, and certain others, though closely allied to existing forms, exhibit considerable modification in detail, yet the structural basis remains the same in all. The cells, the vessels, the tissues, are absolutely the same. We cannot see the protoplasm in these old fossils,

but there can be no doubt that its structure and its functions were the same in the oldest plants known to us as in the vegetation of to-day. This fact is one of great importance. but it is not altogether a hopeful one as regards the discovery of a natural system or the construction of a genealogical tree. It shows that while external morpho-logy is a great aid to classification, internal anatomy is of relatively minor importance. Morphology and taxonomy go together, internal anatomy and physiology are inseparable. Dr. Scott's book is devoted to a series of illustrations of the structure of the higher Cryptogams, of the Gymnosperms, and of various intermediate groups, some of which, like the Cordaiteme, no longer exist in a living state. The account of the several families is admirably clear. The reader is never left in doubt as to what has been made out and what has been only inferred. The author has his opinions, and he is a keen critic of those of others, but he is eminently modest, and his whole aim seems to be to put the facts before the student in the clearest way possible, and keep matters of opinion in the background.

A Handy Book of Horticulture, by F. C. Hayes (Murray), is a useful book for amateurs fond of the practical work of gardening. The chapter on "general principles" is rather one of general practice, but it is none the worse on that account—indeed, it is well adapted for its purpose. The details of the construction of a rock border are excellent. The same remark may be made as to the treatment accorded to the several departments, such as the spring garden, the rock garden, &c. A calendar of garden operations for each month of the year is given. For those who desire to know something about the plants they cultivate the book is not so satisfactory.

The "1900" Supplement to the Dictionary of Gardening. By Geo. Nicholson. (Upcott Gill.)—We are startled to find that Nicholson's Dictionary is nearly twenty years old. That being the case, it is no wonder that a supplement is needed, and it is a matter of profound satisfaction that Mr. Nicholson has been enabled to prepare one. The value of such compilations depends almost entirely on the competence and judgment of the compiler. Among the entries we find one of the "Flamingo" plant, an Aroid, so called in allusion to the brilliant scarlet of its spathes. When Bishop Wilberforce first saw this plant, and was told its name, he said, "Ah, I see! a flaming go." Mr. Nicholson does not narrate that incident, but he may have been present on the occasion. The present part extends to the end of letter F, and the remainder is promised shortly. It will be very welcome.

Catalogue of the African Plants collected by Dr. Friedrich Welwitsch. Part IV. (Printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum.)—It is only necessary to say of this part that it is prepared by Mr. W. P. Hiern with the same care as the preceding instalments. It is curious to find that the common plantain, Plantago major, which is here common by roadsides and similar dry localities, occurs in Angola on river banks and in damp places generally. In the Cape de Verde Islands also it is noted as inhabiting moist places.

Cyclopædia of American Horticulture. By L. H. Bailey. (Macmillan & Co.)—We have previously alluded to the first volume of this monumental publication. The second is no whit inferior to the first. In addition to articles relating to plants, there are pleasant biographies of botanists and gardeners, and valuable statements as to the physical geography and vegetable products of the various states of the Union.

'Twixt Town and Country: a Book of Suburban Gardening. By Roma White. (Harper & Brothers.)—This book opens well, for it deals in the first chapter with suitable or unsuitable trees for forecourt gardens. Nothing is more common in suburban plots than to see forest trees dominating the house, casting an undue amount of shade, preventing the growth of flowers, and generally looking ridiculously out of place. One reason for this is that the occupants of the house seek an immediate effect and demand privacy. They forget that the trees they plant will grow and assume undesirable dimensions, or, it may be, they only occupy the residence for a short time, and to their successors is left the task of removing the tree or backing it into shape-in other words, of converting it into a hideous deformity. The chapter on making boundaries beautiful is also suggestive and helpful, and the same may be said of that devoted to flowering bushes and shrubs. The book does not contain many cultural details, but numerous hints what to plant in a garden so as to make it both pretty and interesting. The associations, literary, poetical, fanciful, that may be interwoven in the pursuit of gardening are amply illustrated, and materially contribute to the pleasure of perusing the author's pages. But above all and beyond all are the proofs brought forward to show that even in the smokiest parts of London or Liverpool gardening may be successfully carried out.

The Chronicle of a Cornish Garden. (Lane.)-The title of this Harry Roberts. book aptly indicates the nature of its contents. It is the record of the author's labours in forming a garden, stocking it, and eventually profiting by the results of his exertions. There are so many books nowadays of similar purport that it is difficult to differentiate them. Perhaps we may say that the present writer is more accurate in his nomenclature than some are, and that now and then he betrays a love for plants as something more than garden ornaments-witness his account of the structure of the Canterbury bell.

How the Garden Grew (Longmans), by Miss Maud Maryon, will certainly hold its own in the pleasant and desultory class of literature which within the last few years has become fashionable. There is less material in these four chapters, one to a season, and yet perhaps they are less desultory than some of those delightful volumes with which they must inevitably challenge comparison. The author sets out to write only of her garden, and starting herself as an acknowledged "Ignoramus," she really imparts some practical information, together with price-lists, to would be gardeners as ignorant as herself. A scarcely acknowledged love idyl creeps in amongst the plants and seedlings, growing with their growth, but "his Reverence's Young Man" is a permissible intruder. The author writes in a delicate and humorous manner of the members of her family circle and others, and it is a noticeable feature of gardening books that such individuals are not allowed their proper names.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

PROF. MAX WOLF announces the discovery of two small planets at Königstuhl, Heidelberg, on the night of the 20th ult.

A new comet (c, 1900) was discovered by M. Giacobini at Nice on the 20th ult. At the time of discovery it was in the southern part of the constellation Aquarius, and moving in

a south-easterly direction. Three new variable stars are announced in Ast. Nach. No. 3678. The first of these (var. 21, 1900, Minocerotis) was detected by Madame L. Ceraski at Moscow, whilst studying photographs taken by M. Blajko, assistant at the Observatory. This star in March, 1899, was of only the 11½ magnitude and decreasing, but in March, 1900, it had risen to the ninth, and subsequent observations by M. Blajko showed that it reached its maximum towards the end of October, when the magnitude was 8.8 or a little greater. The second (var. 22, 1900,

Cygni), which is B.D. +42°.3935, has been found by Mr. A. Stanley Williams, of Hove, Brighton, to be subject to regular changes of brightness between the 91 and 11 magnitudes, the period of which appears to be only a little more than thirteen days, the rise from minimum to maximum being apparently very rapid. The third (var. 23, 1900, Andromedæ) was noted by the Rev. Dr. Anderson, of Edinburgh, as of the 9.8 magnitude on October 27th, but to have sunk below the 10.7 on December 15th; it is registered in the B.D. under the number + 38°.315, and it is situated a short distance to the south of the fifth-magnitude star τ Andromedæ.

We have received the seventh and eighth numbers of Vol. XXIX, of the Memorie della Società degli Spettroscopisti Italiani. former contains a résumé of a note by Prof. Wolfer, Director of the Zurich Observatory, on the statistics of the solar spots seen in the year 1899, compared with the variations of the magnetic declination; and a note by Prof. Ricco and Signor Franco on the stability of the soil of the observatory on Mount Etna. In the latter Profs. Tacchini and Riccò give an account of the observations of the total eclipse of the sun on May 28th, obtained by the Italian party under their direction at Ménerville, a few miles to the east of Algiers: it is accompanied by drawings.

MEETINGS FOR THE BUSUING WEEK.

TUES.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.
London Institution, 4. "Flowers: Place in Nature, Prof. W. B.
Bottomiev (Juvenie Lecture)
Royal Institution, 3. "The Shooting Stars," Sir R. S. Ball.
(Juvenie Lecture,)
Institution Beleving, Bridge over the Fitzers River at Rockhampton, Greensland, Air W. J. Dusk; "The Niegara Falls
and Clifton Steel Arch Bridge," Mr. L. L. Buck
Goolegical, 8. "The Geology of South Central Ceylon," Mr. J.
Parkinson; "Note on the Occurrence of Corundum as a
Contact-Mineral at Port-Paul, near Moriaix, Finistère, Mr.
A. K. Ccomára-Swámy.
Huyment, S. — The Huyment Paper-making Industry," Mr.
W. W. Portal.
Mathematical. 5]. — 'The Singularities of Quartic Curves,'

W. W. Portal athematical 5). — 'The Singularities of Quartic Curves,' Mr. A. B. Basset; 'On Streaming Motions past (yilnorical Boundaries, Prof. Love; and a Paper by Prof. F. S. Carey. nestitution of Electrical Engineers. 8. — Capacity in Alternate-Current Working,' Mr. W. M. Mordey; 'The Use of Aluminium as an Electrical Conductor,' Mr. J. C. Kershaw, Milotegical, S. — Udd-English Personal Names,' Mr. W. H.

Stevenson of Civil Engineers, 8.- 'Geodesy,' Mr. W. Airy. (Students' Meeting.)

Science Gossip.

WE regret to hear of the painfully sudden death on Saturday last of Mr. J. H. Leech, who was well known to students of Lepidoptera for his fine collection of butterflies and moths. Mr. Leech specially devoted himself to Chinese and Japanese forms, on which he published numerous memoirs, and in 1892-4 a finely illustrated monograph. Master of a not inconsiderable fortune, he devoted a large part of it to the expenses of personal travel for collecting, and the cost of carefully selected specimens. His collection of moths has lately been acquired by the Trustees of the British Museum. Mr. Leech was educated at Eton and Trinity Hall.

A DINNER in celebration of the jubilee of the Royal School of Mines will take place next month. Sir G. Stokes, the only survivor, to speak strictly, of the original staff of professors, will take the chair.

THE advance made in anthropology of late years is very striking, and there seems every chance of a success for the new journal Man just published. In the not improbable event of this first number being exhausted early, a second impression will be produced for the benefit of all subscribers whose applications are received (at 3, Hanover Square, W.) not later than January 15th.

WE note the appearance as a Parliamentary Paper of the Report of the President of the Meteorological Council for 1900. The price is 81d.

It is officially announced that the meeting of the International Zoological Congress will take place at Berlin in August next,

under the presidency of Prof. K. Möbius. The fourth meeting took place at Cambridge in 1898. Papers have been promised by Prof. Poulton, of Oxford, on 'Mimicry and Natural Selection'; by Prof. Forel, of Morges, on 'The Psychical Qualities of Ants'; and by Prof. Grassi, of Rome, on 'The Malaria Problem from the Zoological Point of View.'

FINE ARTS

Cameos. By Cyril Davenport, (Seeley & Co.)—Mr. Davenport's book is a welcome addition to the admirable series of Portfolio monographs on artistic subjects. Outside the circle of specialists, probably few persons have clear ideas as to what a cameo is; to many it means an old-fashioned brooch, cut in some delicate shell material. Oddly enough, no one knows what the word really means; its On derivation is lost in complete obscurity. this point Mr. Davenport offers no conjecture. He defines a cameo as a "small sculpture executed in low relief on some substance precious either for its beauty, variety, or hard-ness." Cameos begin right back in Mycenæan days: the British Museum in its Gold Room contains, among the gems from Mycenæ, a remarkable little figure of a recumbent lion cut in amethyst-it forms the back of a seal, the seal itself being engraved with small spirals; it is probably our earliest specimen of cameo work. Primitive art in the Mediterranean basin spent the wealth of its invention on intaglio rather than cameo design. perhaps, too much to ask that a specialist in cameos should be abreast as regards Mycenæan questions; but it is a little trying to be told nowadays that "there is little really known about Mycenæ or its inhabitants. Remains of Mycenæan civilization are, of course, found in the Peloponnesus, and also in several of the islands of the Ægean Sea, and the date of this civilization is so remote that to fix any date is almost pure guess-work." The investigations The investigations and discoveries of Mr. Arthur Evans, Mr. Flinders Petrie, Mr. Hogarth, the comparison of Cretan and Mycensean with dated Egyptian antiquities, have turned this guess-work into certainty. Beyond this passing protest, we have but praise for a book that shows, as nothing soon as the safe haven of Græco-Roman times is reached, a close and loving knowledge of the subject in hand. Mr. Davenport writes an admirable chapter on the materials used for cameos, and the processes employed in cutting them, interspersed with much pleasant incidental ancient gossip. Gem engravers used an emerald to rest their tired eyes, and Nero, Pliny says, was in the habit of watching the combats of gladiators through one of these stones. Nero's emerald was probably concave, and Nero, we know, was short-sighted; it is probable that, all unwittingly, he employed the right kind of spectacle. We cannot share the author's enthusiasm for onyx, which remains to us a natural monstrosity, but unquestionably its peculiar stratification gave an impulse to cameo cutting. The introduction contains some valuable cautions to collectors. Ingenious Italian workmen of the last century counteracted the unduly high polish of their forgeries by allowing turkeys to swallow them; the trituration of the gizzards of these useful birds imparts the exact signs of wear and tear necessary to pass off the gem as antique. The book is beautifully illustrated by phototypes and coloured facsimiles.

The History of the Devil and of the Idea of Evil, from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. By Dr. Paul Carus. (Kegan Paul & Co.) - A curious book, which fails in part chiefly because its author adventures over-much. This 'History of the Devil' is obscure and unsatisfactory in outline because of the haze thrown about it by the larger image of the

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idea of evil. A book of such wide scope would require a syndicate to write it, and everywhere, when it comes to examining details at close quarters, the author is convicted of that lack of exact knowledge of individual particulars that must precede any satisfactory generalization. To take a single instance: facing p. 206 we have the Gorgoneion. Medusa, "the symbol of deadly fright," is slain, facing p. 200 we have the Gorgoneton. Accurse, "the symbol of deadly fright," is slain, according to Dr. Paul Carus, by Perseus, a "solar hero." Prof. Ridgeway has recently (Journal of Hellenic Studies, vol. xx. p. xliv) shown what the Gorgoneion really is. The ægis was merely the primitive garb—the goatskin-worn by men and women before they learnt to make woven raiment. It was worn with the scalp of the animal hanging in front-the γοργείη κεφαλή δεινοιο πελώρου. Such a skin costume, with a plate of shell where the head should be, is worn by the Dyak of to-day. The Gorgoncion then is no "symbol of deadly fright"; it is the head of an actual beast used as an ἀποτροπαῖον. Perseus is no solar hero, still less is Bellerophon; nor is the Pegasus he rides a "mythical representation of the thunder-cloud." Generalizations based on thunder-cloud." Generalizations based on such perverse and fantastic premises can only be misleading. What is true is this. Among the Greeks, as among most if not all primitive peoples, religion begins with $\alpha\pi\sigma\tau\rho\sigma\pi'j$ —with the warding off of evil influences, dreaded the more because only dimly imagined. It developes later into $\theta\epsilon\rho a\pi\epsilon ia$, the tending and fostering, the cultus of good spirits and in-fluences. Making all due allowance for misprints, we confess to misgivings as to the scholarship of an author in whose pages such forms occur as "Heracley" ("the poet Pisander wrote an apotheosis of Hercules called 'The Heracley'") and "ταρωταρσας," "having hurled them down to Tartarus." His archeology is of the same vague and pre-carious kind, or he would scarcely have reproduced the familiar Lower Italy vase on p. 194 without a warning as to its numerous restorations. Dr. Carus is obviously more at home among the horrors of devil worship and witch prosecution in the Middle Ages; but here again he seems little in touch with the results of modern ethnological investigation. It is now an acknowledged principle in the history of the development of religions that the religion of one stage becomes the magic of the next; the honoured matriarchal priestess of one phase of civilization becomes the persecuted witch of a succeeding generation; and, still more evidently, the gods of a conquered people become the devils of the conquerors, and as such are grossly misrepresented. Dr. Carus's final conclusion is not merely that the devil is not so black as he is painted, but that he is essential to the divine order. "Good is good only because there is evil, and God is God because there is a Devil."

Geschichte der Kunst aller Zeiten und Völker. Von C. Woermann.—Erster Band, Die Kunst der vor- und ausserchristlichen Völker. (Leipzig, Bibliographisches Institut.)— Confronted with a book so entitled, which begins with the nests of birds and the houses of beavers, and ends with Indian miniature painting, the reviewer is apt to gasp out, "Who is sufficient for these things?" If the German, the Eng-lishman hardly. Dr. Woermann's 'History of Painting' is known and valued here in its English form; but the present volume is of much wider compass-it is the natural supply caused by a demand, constant in Germany, for "allgemeine Bildung." We have read through the section on Greece, and find everywhere a clear statement of accredited fact, but nothing new that calls for comment. The illustrations are for the most part as admirable as they are abundant, specially the coloured plates: we may single out the 'Frieze of the Archers' from Susa (facing p. 218), where every polished brick stands out as brilliantly as in the original; and, again, the 'Pompeian Satyr and

Bacchant' (facing p. 440), where the wonderful illumination of the chiaroscuro loses nothing in reproduction. The book as a whole is likely to be most useful to those who have made a study of parts of the subject in detail and wish to correct their mental perspective by a rapid re-survey. It has the German fault, born of the contempt of the Fachmann for the public, of adding no references; but there are signs of grace in the admirably full bibliography at the end, which will be of real service to the student.

THE SOCIETY OF OIL PAINTERS, PICCADILLY.

THE new century begins auspiciously for this now well-established society, which, although the youngest among the more ambitious, has gone on improving up to this eighteenth annual exhibition, which is its best display. We say this despite the too patent fact that, of its five hundred pictures, not more than a hundred are excellent enough to reward critical examination, although the number of pleasing things is very much greater. On the whole, too, we never remember so small a proportion of mere pot-boilers, painted without any definite intentions beyond the desire that they should be sold - the

usual function of a pot-boiler.

Putting the more important and successful pictures first, we commend Mr. G. G. Kilburne's Hearts are Trumps (No. 431), a flirtation, where the lovers' faces redeem the somewhat loose touch and crude colouring of the whole, which is, perhaps, as good as anything the artist has done.

—Mr. S. E. Waller, whose rôle is not ambitious Waller, whose rôle is not ambitious, is at his best, though the work at large is hard, in his "The smallest contributions thankfully received" (367), a "gentleman highwayman" robbing a travelling lady; here the painting of the chariot is exemplary, and the tale is told with completeness and spirit. It is a pity it was not better worth telling.—That Mr. Byam Shaw has a spirit to conjure with everybody knows, but he never employed his gift so successfully as in The Kelpie (243), rising in the shadows of the trees massed about a moonlit pool. The theme is well sustained by the coloration, light and shade, the white moonlight on old buildings, a bridge, and darkened trees.-Mr. F. D. Millet contributes two small pictures of less finish than usual with him, but otherwise distinguished for resource. Of these Girl Reading (280) will please even more than its companion, The Fireside (165), which shows, with rare feeling for an expressive face and attitude, a comely damsel musing at a fire, the reflections of which are skilfully given.—A brilliantly painted, whole-length, life-size figure of a lady in a bright blue dress, with a fresh expression, is, despite its slightness, acceptable, in Mr. S. M. Fisher's "My love in her attire doth show her wit" (222). -Loosely touched and woolly throughout is Mr. R. G. Hutchinson's "Bairnies cuddle doon" (81), a nurse putting children to bed, but these shortcomings must not prevent us from admiring the general treatment of the whole, an interior in twilight, and the faces of the "bairnies," which are first-rate.—The extraordinary vigour of Mr. J. Charlton's design of "Halt!" (114) artillery suddenly stopped in the descent of a steep bank, is impressive. The picture is rather spoilt by its clay-like colour and rough surface. -Mr. A. C. Tayler contributes a telling though somewhat slovenly picture in A Committee of Taste (12).—One of the most brilliant things to be seen is Mr. Fulleylove's harmony of light in a high key, with animated figures dressed in sparkling and gay colours, a work which shows the terrace at Montpellier (262), and is, even for this painter, exceptionally pure in light and colour.

A group of pre-eminent portraits includes Sir G. Reid's G. Lillie Craik, Esq. (416), an admirable likeness, painted with a vigorous touch which reminds us of Raeburn at his best.-Mr. Herkomer contributes a powerful

tour de force in the well-painted profile of Mrs. B. Thomson (385). — We go on to the best landscapes. Mr. R. T. Waite's idyl Slender Ash Trees (429) is full of sentiment and delicate hues. - Mr. C. Hayes is unusually happy in a large picture of a spacious view, Witley Common, as seen under "The uncertain glories of an April day" (374), which has a fine sky, with well-modelled clouds extended above the land, which is rather heavy, cold, and redolent of the lamp, though it is painted with deftness and spirit.—The Mills of Montrevil (360) comes from Mr. H. Vander Weyden, and with much force, breadth, and wealth of light and colour shows a picturesque group of old buildings in full sunlight.—The softness and opalescence of Mr. J. P. S. Streatfield's Coast of Devon (347) offer a choice contrast with the qualities of the last-named example in a very different manner. -Mr. J. Farquharson's telling, glowing, though gloomy woodland piece, a stream running in golden light amid the shadows of a twilight wood, which he calls By the River Side (240), is wood, which he cans By the Neer Sale (240), is very artistic, though not so searching as we could wish.—Portsdown Hills from Porchester (311) is bright and true, by Mr. R. Herbert.—Our selection of the better pictures concludes with Mr. W. H. Margetson's Sacred Spaces of the Sea (49), a broad coast scene, with a level sea and sands, where a girl in blue stands in contemplation. Rather dry, but in keeping with itself, simple and tasteful, this is a note-

worthy example.

In briefer terms and according to less ambitious standards let us praise Mr. H. Carter's rather mannered and painty Idyl (4) for artistic aims, though they are not fully carried out.-Mr. E. Bundy is himself (he might do better) in the heavily painted yet dashing interior, The Bachelov (20).—Mr. F. Topham, in To the Rescue! (30) Ivanhoe wounded and Rebecca with his shield, gives but a tame version of Scott; the colour of the picture is pretty.-Mr. W. B. Wollen's On the Road to Pretoria (62) is a dashing and clever sketch of artillery on the march: would that it did not reproduce the lighting of the studio!

—Mr. E. Parton's Peep through the Trees (76) and Mr. J. Aumonier's Early Summer (83) are good minor examples of the skill and inspiration of two capable and diverse painters of landscape. - The Fountain (77), by Mr. G. S. Watson, is an ambitious study, including a nude female figure, the flesh tints of which lack the rosiness of an open air effect, but it is otherwise acceptable. - Haarlem (91), a rather confused but veracious picture of misty sunlight upon numerous figures, buildings, shipping, and a river, is one of Mr. H. Marshall's second-rate examples; he is much happier in water colours. -In Stanpit Common (112) we have, with minor figures, the last work of the late Mr. E. M. Wimperis, with a good study of the air and a well-graded distance, where, however, the clouds want modelling and the shadows are too black for nature in daylight. The last defect is, of course, common in all but first rate work which is either painted from nature without flinching or executed in harmony with itself.—Mr. J. Clark, a painter with a long and honourable record, sends "Vaulting Ambition" (158), a cottage scene represented with the same sympathy and vivacity as of old, and handled with skill, though with a rougher touch than usual.—Miss F. M. Reid's A Word of Comfort (174) has a motive conveyed in bright colours and a strong effect. The principal face, that of the consoler, is sincere and expressive. — Extremely spirited is the design of Mr. A. Davidson's girl dancing alone, An Impromptu Dance (180).—Pretty colour is seen in Her Ladyship (182), a figure depicted by Mr. D. Hardy with sparkling lights and a crisp touch. -Though executed in a coarse manner, The Peaceful Hour (194) of Mr. W. L. Hankey is almost redeemed by the pathos of the woman's air and expression. This artist should complete his

technical education.-Mr. A. Davidson's figure of a young lady in blue waiting for her hostess, The Visitor (197), is very clever, and so harmonious in all its parts that it deserves to be made into a picture proper.—The glowing twilight, breadth, and several good figures in the too slight Inn Yard (202) of Mr. C. Johnson commend themselves as elements of a good beginning.—A suggestive and sympathetic conception is manifest in Mr. E. F. Brewtnall's Outward Bound (214), a lady and her dog standing on the seashore, watching a ship vanishing in the fiery haze of sunset. We have seen nothing more fresh and touching than this from the artist, whose technique is unjust to his invention.— Rest (235), by Sir J. Linton, though it exhibits style and power on a small canvas, is not by any means one of the painter's best things. -Burning Weeds (247), by Mr. T. A. Brown, is good and sound as a whole, and would bear developing.—Fox and Pheasant (256), a hunting sharper and his victim, represents Mr. J. C. Dollman but unfavourably, because its design is jejune and its execution flat and thin; but the faces, though of the obvious sort, are apt and animated .- Of Mr. E. M. Hale's pretty and semi-classical groups of damsels dancing on the sea-shore, On the Sands (285) is the most graceful and gay, with more than ordinary force of tone and colour.—Peggy (299) shows Mr. R. Peacock making great progress as a face painter.—Mr. G. G. Kilburne's A New Servant and an Old Master (300), a housemaid looking at a portrait, is good and graphic.—Light and Shade (351), by Mr. T. B. Kennington, is not so clear and firm as usual from him; the landscape background is detestable in its paintiness, but the boy's face is excellent.—We do not know whether in the Battle Call (436), a woodland scene with an animal bellowing defiance, Mr. J. T. Nettleship intended to represent a dog or a deer; the incident and the creature's horns suggest the latter, the head and figure the former. This painter is not doing himself justice; see, for instance, Rivals (99).

The remaining examples worth mention are landscapes and subjects of still life. Here we notice Mr. J. Farquharson's Fading, Manycoloured Woods (19), which, though rough, is broad and effective.—Roses (24), by M. Fantin-Latour, is a fine composition of very simple elements, yet compact of high art. - Bamburgh (41), a sober, tender coast piece, is by Mr. N. M. Lund. — Mr. C. E. Johnson's "Through wooded heights the river flows" a vista in vaporous weather, is one of his best pictures, less painty and softer than usual.—
Mr. E. Hayes's sea painting in Ship signalling Mr. E. Hayes s see painting in Ship signilling for a Pilot (71) has never been surpassed by him.—All Sauls' Abbey (166), misty moonlight in a great church, by Mr. C. E. Stiffe, abounds in poetic suggestions well carried out.—Mr. J. Fulleylove's Almshouses, Abingdon (181), and Fellows Garden, Merton College, Oxford (183), are, though rather rough and heavily touched, in everything else complete.—Mr. C. W. Wyllie is quite himself (we cannot say more in parise) is quite himself (we cannot say more in praise) The Barley Harvest (206), the subject of which he repeats too often, perhaps.—Mr. Blacklock's Rye Harbour (237) is bright, fresh, and warm.—Mr. L Block's group of old books (279) is his best and most artistic production. —Mr. J. S. Hill's Near Ramsgate (425) is a good landscape, with an inferior sky, but true distance.—Mr. F. G. Cotman injured his Rievaulx (453) by crowding its parts too closely and confusing an effect of mist in a narrow valley.

ROMAN BRITAIN IN 1900.

Twelve months ago, when I surveyed in these columns the chief discoveries relative to Roman Britain which had been made during 1899, I began by emphasizing the number of interesting excavations which required mention. Despite war and trouble, the number has been no less in 1900. Three sites examined in 1899,

Wilderspool, Melandra, and Ribchester, have since, it is true, lain almost untouched. But Richborough, Cardiff, and Gelligaer have taken their places; the explorations of Silchester, Caerwent, and Hadrian's Wall have gone forward; and the Scottish Society of Antiquaries, having completed Camelon, has commenced at Lyne. It is a good list; but, good as it is, I must repeat at the end of it another remark which I made last year. There is still grave danger lest we outrun our supply of men who are competent and willing to direct excavations—indeed, it is more than a danger. Why do not a few of our capable university archæologists turn their attention to the antiquities of their own country?

Two Romano-British towns, both of them what we should call country towns, were the scenes of excavation in 1900—Silchester and Caerwent. At Silchester the neighbourhood of the north gate has been examined, and one more substantial advance has been made in the great task of uncovering the whole of the hundred acres which lie within the ancient walls. This total excavation of the site is, of course, the chief point, and beside this high aim, pursued with splendid perseverance through many years, the details discovered in any single summer must seem comparatively insignificant. Attention may, however, be directed to a hoard of iron tools—among them some monstrous padlocks and a shoemaker's stand-which were found half-way down a filled-up well; it is the second hoard of the kind found at Silchester. Another well yielded a stranger find—a wooden ladder. Presumably the well tumbled in while being constructed or cleaned; no one was killed—that is, no bones were found—but the ladder was buried by the fallen soil, and the damp preserved the wood to our days. If the excavators can now treat it so as to resist the air, they will have a unique curiosity to add to Reading Museum.

At Caerwent work has been continued in the

At Caerwent work has been continued in the south-west corner of the Romano-British town; some interesting buildings have been explored in whole or part, two inscribed fragments have turned up, and there is good promise for a third season's digging in 1901. It appears, however, that the Romans must have considerably altered the shape of the little hill on which the place stands, and this increases the difficulty of the excavations.

Very little has been added to our knowledge of Romano-British villas. One house, apparently of the "corridor" type, has been more or less completely uncovered at Brislington, on the outskirts of Bristol. Traces of another have been quite lately detected at Burgh, near Woodbridge, in Suffolk, where a good deal of what one visitor ambiguously styled "very in-teresting rubbish" has been dug up. Surface indications of two others are reported from Gloucestershire, and a third from Hampshire. How little we know in general of these villas may be seen from the sketch of Romano-British Hampshire which I have contributed to the 'Victoria County History.' I have there attempted, for the first time, to enumerate all the known or suspected villas in the area of that county, with plans and details of such as have been properly excavated. The number of sites will. I think, cause surprise no less than the fewness of excavated sites.

Far more importance attaches to the discoveries made at military posts, and it is curious that this year most of these have been made in the south of Britain. At Richborough the fort has been re-examined, the gates and walls traced out, and the famous concrete platform in the centre once more attacked. This platform, which, of course, is not a church, turns out to have been surrounded by a corridor or cloister of white marble, but the problem of its massive foundations has not yet been solved. They are too deep and strong for anything but a very large tower or trophæum, yet no vestige

of a superstructure has been detected lying ruined around them, nor do there seem to be holes for the beams of a timber Pharos. Among the smaller finds are a fragment of an inscription in what may be fourth-century letteringAVIT—perhaps opus consummavit or dedicavit—and a silver ingot stamped EX OFFI ISATIS, "from the workshop of Isas (or Isaac?)," weighing just one pound. Payments in the fourth century A.D. were sometimes made by pounds-weight of silver, and this ingot and other similar ingots found elsewhere in the British Isles and Germany may be connected with that custom.

Two excavations in South Wales are noteworthy. The reconstruction of Cardiff Castle by the late Lord Bute had shown, even before The reconstruction of Cardiff Castle 1900, that part of it stands on Roman founda-1900, that pare of it stands on Roman founda-tions. It now appears, further, that the site was occupied successively by two Roman forts, the earlier of which probably resembled the type of forts built during the first two or three centuries of the empire, while the later belongs to the fourth century. The masonry of the two periods can be distinguished with some ease at the north gate. But no evidence has yet been discovered, I believe, to show either the positions of the other gates or the sizes of the earlier and later forts or the details of their interiors. Another Roman fort has been excavated fourteen miles north of Cardiff at Gelligaer, on the line of the supposed Roman road to the Roman fort near Brecon. The work is not yet complete, but there can be no doubt that we have there a small and rather roughly constructed Roman fort, in area nearly square (about 400 feet), filled inside with stone buildings, and, in its outline, gateways, and internal edifices, very closely resembling the forts of the earlier type alluded to above. Minor finds are few, but there are two or three coins, belonging to the late first and early second centuries. The excavation has been carried out by the Cardiff Naturalists' Society, which will, I hope, The two sites, complete it next summer. Cardiff and Gelligaer, taken together, well illustrate what seems to be the history of illustrate what seems to be the history of Roman South Wales. The land was conquered in the later part of the first century and held down by roads and forts. From the legionary fortress at Caerleon (Isca Silurum) a coast road ran to Carmarthen, an inland road up the Usk Valley, and cross roads connected Neath and Cardiff on the coast with Brecon on the inner The earlier fort at Cardiff and the fort at Gelligaer probably belong to this scheme. Much later—somewhere at the very end of the third century or the beginning of the fourth century-the coast road was reorganized, and to this reorganization we may attribute the second fort at Cardiff. Throughout, the occupation of the country must have been mainly military, but there were villas in the lowlands

The work on Hadrian's Wall has yielded still more interesting results. The fort at Chesters (Cilurnum), in the valley of the North Tyne, is so situated that part of it extends north of the line of the Wall, and so the Wall does not fall into line with its northern rampart, but meets its eastern and western flanks. A brief excava-tion has shown, however, that this is not the original arrangement. In the first instance the Wallappears to have run straight across the area of the fort; then this piece of wall was demolished, the ditch in front of it filled in, and the fort erected of which we still see the ruins. This discovery fits in with some other less recent discoveries, which had seemed hitherto to be isolated. Excavations at Birdoswald three or four years ago had shown that a wall, built of regularly laid turves, separated at a certain point from the line of the Wall, which is itself built of stone, ran along nearly parallel to it, and about two miles further on rejoined it. This turf wall was unquestionably older both than the stone wall and the stone-built fort of g

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Birdoswald, and was plainly an earlier frontierline. But it stood alone; no traces of any earlier line could be detected elsewhere along the wall. Now the discovery at Chesters shows that there also we have two periods of construction, and though we do not know what the earlier Chesters wall was like, we do know that the earlier Birdoswald wall was of turf, and the later one, both at Birdoswald and at Chesters, was of stone. To this we may add two other items. First, a comparatively recent re-examination of the bridge near Chesters has shown that the earlier of two bridges there distinguishable is also earlier than the stone-built wall, while the later bridge may not improbably be coeval with it. Here again, therefore, the stone wall is not the original arrangement. Moreover, the position of Chesters fort, astride the Wall, recurs in other forts, where also we may expect to find traces of two periods. In other words, the Wall would seem to be in reality two walls, and the whole historical problem is thereby altered. We have been accustomed since the days of Hodgson and Bruce to say that Hadrian built the Wall, and the evidence in favour of that view seems to me to be convincing. But we have now two walls to play with, and it will be necessary to consider whether it may not be equally true to say that Severus also built the Wall. But it is too soon yet to decide definitely between these

rival imitators of Balbus.

Lastly, the "camp" at Lyne, near Peebles, has been excavated in part, and enough, I understand, has been discovered to show that it was at one time a definite Roman fort. It is a curious place for such a thing. The recognized road between the walls of Pius and Hadrian ran over the Cheviots, and near Jedburgh, Melrose, and Edinburgh; another road has been thought (on scanty grounds) to cross by Moffat and Elvanfoot to Glasgow. Lyne lies between the two, but it is near neither. Its further exploration will perhaps help to explain its purpose. Certainly the Scottish Society of Antiquaries is doing admirable work by its methodical examination of the chief Roman sites in Scotland.

F. HAVERFIELD.

Fine-Art Gossip.

We ought not, we suppose, to grudge Sir John Tenniel his well-earned rest from the weekly labours which have done so much to make Punch unique. Still the paper will hardly be the same without him. His beautifully clear line, his sense of dignity and also of humour, a gift of making figures live which many artists lack, and excellent draughtsmanship which shirked nothing—all these qualities are only too rare in combination. Long may he live! He is one of the fittest representatives of the last century to encourage the new.

The obituary of Christmas Day last records the sudden decease at Southbourne, Christ Church, through apoplexy, of Mr. Edmund Monson Wimperis, the Vice-President of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours. To this body in 1866 he began to contribute the pretty landscapes which were weaker versions, technical and pathetic, of the works of David Cox and Birket Foster. They represent thoroughly what, being a little out of fashion for the nonce, is called "old-fashioned" art in water colours; but for all that they have many charms of a gentler, somewhat characterless sort, neatness, a bright, soft coloration, harmonious tones, warmth, and (when at their best) graceful sentiment. The artist was born at Flocker's Brook, Chester, in 1835, and, coming to London when quite a young student, was trained as a draughtsman for wood engravers under Birket Foster, who was then a very popular leader in that line of work. Like many men of his class, he did much for the Illustrated London News and other periodicals, and for books, especially in the decorative

way. He was an indifferent figure draughtsman, and his practice was mainly confined to the less exacting and stringent landscape art, when, quitting wood-blocks, he devoted himself to the method by which he is best known. In 1870 he became a member of the Society of British Artists, and remained so until 1874. In 1873 he was chosen an Associate of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours. Being elected a Member of the same body in 1875, he thenceforth took an active part in all its affairs, including the adventurous removal from a little narrow gallery in Pall Mall to the spacious and admirably lit rooms in Piccadilly where it now exists. An extremely prolific exhibitor, Mr. Wimperis showed to the public, according to Mr. Algernon Graves's 'Dictionary of Exhibiting Artists,' about 300 works in all, including forty-nine in Suffolk Street, more than 170 with the Institute of which he became a Vice-President, and at least sixty elsewhere. Of course, this was by no means the entire work of a draughtsman whose fancy was so facile and touch so deft. Of his personality every one speaks highly and kindly. Of his relations, several "took to painting" with such success as qualified them to become exhibitors in various London

To-day (Saturday) the Fine-Art Society has appointed for a private view of examples of 'British Water-Colour Art in the Nineteenth Century by a Century of Painters.' The public will be admitted on Monday.

The exhibition of the pictures of Sir W. B. Richmond at the New Gallery will be opened to the public on the 9th inst. (Wednesday). Arrangements have been made at this gallery, according to which in future no cards of invitation will be issued to the private views—generally so densely crowded—of the exhibitions. The days hitherto set apart for them will be reserved for contributors to the exhibitions and for annual season ticket-holders. A subscriber of a guinea will be entitled to a non-transferable ticket to both the annual private views, and to other advantages, such as use of a telephone, newspapers, magazines, and writing materials. The private view of the approaching exhibition is appointed for the 8th inst. (Tuesday).

SIR L. ALMA TADEMA, who has been unwell, is better, and able, we are glad to hear, to resume painting. We understand that he has been looking after the pictorial side of 'Coriolanus' for the promised representation of that play.

Many biographers of the late Lord Armstrong seem to have failed to notice that at Craigside, his house near Rothbury, as well as at Jesmond Dene, which the engineer devoted generously to public use, he had collected a number of pictures by modern hands, including several local artists of distinction, such as Mr. Emmerson's 'The Foreign Musicians,' which is by far his ablest work. Best known to the world among Lord Armstrong's collection is Mr. J.C. Horsley's picture in oil, 'Henry of Monmouth putting the Crown on his Head,' to which a premium of 2001. was awarded at the exhibition of works for the decoration of the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Hall, 1847.

Messrs. Dowdeswell exhibit at their gallery in New Bond Street water-colour drawings by Mr. C. J. Collings and a new sacred picture, called 'The Temptation,' by Mr. W. Strutt.

LOVERS of Sir Joshua and his art will be glad to hear that, during the revision of the painter's diaries which was rendered necessary by the preparation of the fourth volume of Messrs. Graves and Cronin's exhaustive text on Reynolds's works, the first three of which we reviewed not long since, the names of over a thousand sitters to the painter not recorded

in Leslie and Taylor's text have been discovered. The additional volume is now in the press.

MR. RICHARD WILLIAM BINNS, who died, aged eighty-one, at Worcester on Friday of last week, was born in Dublin, and, being a partner in the Royal Porcelain Works at Worcester, a man of much taste in ceramic decoration, and an enthusiastic improver of the local wares, became in 1852 the art director of the factory, which dates from just a hundred and fifty years ago. Jealous for the honour of his own town, he entered the lists vigorously in opposition to the late Mr. Mayer, antiquary, of Liverpool, who had ventured to claim for that place the invention of transfer printing on porcelain. In a book, which we reviewed at the time, entitled 'A Century of Pottery in the City of Worcester,' Quaritch, 1865, which has become scarce, Mr. Binns demolished Mr. Mayer and secured the honours of Worcester. He had previously published 'Memoir on the Origin and Early History of the Manufacture of Porcelain at Worcester,' Worcester, 1862.

The Builder contains in its New Year's issue an essay on the architectural genius of Sir Charles Barry, with illustrations of his great scheme for Westminster improvements and the concentration of the Government offices; also a reproduction of a drawing of Karnac made during Barry's Egyptian tour.

THE State performance at the Français on Saturday last was a triumph for the director, our Paris correspondent, M. Claretie. An English contributor who was present assures us that the new theatre is above all things clean, airy, and safe. The decorations are light and simple by the side of those of the Opera or of the old theatre.

The Grand Duke of Hesse has appointed as chief director of the Römischgermanische Centralmuseum in Mayence Prof. Karl Schumacher, who was a member of the Imperial Commission formed for the investigation of the Roman remains in the Limes district, and whose writings have gained him considerable reputation as an archeologist. The assistant-director is Dr. Lindenschmit.

MUSIC

Ludwig van Beethovens Leben. Von Alexander Wheelock Thayer. Zweite Auflage. Neu bearbeitet und ergänzt von Hermann Deiters. Erster Band. (Berlin, Weber & Co.)

Now that the century has run its course, musicians will be able to follow with fairly calm judgment the history of the development of their art during the past hundred years. At the time of Goethe's death Carlyle felt that "some generation or two" would pass before the "celestial Impulse" which that poet impressed on the world was fully proclaimed; and even then "some generation or two more, wherein it [the Impulse] has to grow, and expand, and envelope all things." If distance lend enchantment, it also lends clearness to the view. We are now better able, for instance, to measure and estimate the art-work of Mozart than was possible to the men of his day. Haydn, who, perhaps, of all his contemporaries, best appreciated the Salzburg master, thought that one hundred years would elapse before such genius would again be revealed; but we know that, at the very time Haydn uttered those words, the new and, at any rate as regards instrumental music, greater genius had already appeared and was about to become his pupil. Many names which now stand high

may perhaps sound less imposing in the future, but with Beethoven, as with Bach, we believe that a century hence he will seem even greater than at present.

In ordinary circumstances the second edition of a work—with correction of errata, or maybe an additional chapter or footnotes bringing it up to date—would require little notice. In this second edition of the first volume of Thayer's 'Beethovens Leben' there are, however, important changes and additions, the nature of some of which we will describe as briefly as

possible.

And first of all let us state that Thayer before his death had expressed the earnest wish that Dr. Deiters, who had translated the three volumes (published in 1866, 1872, and 1879) from the author's English manuscript, should revise and complete the work; and he had himself revised part of the first volume. Thayer, as we know from the letter addressed to Dr. Deiters in the vol. i. of 1866, had every confidence in him; the latter was, indeed, not only a translator, but a real collaborator; he was allowed to suggest, modify, and even alter. In preparing this new volume Dr. Deiters has had not only free access to all the papers, notes, and documents left by the author, but also has studied all the Beethoven literature which has appeared since 1866, ransacked public and private libraries, and obtained valuable letters and information from Messrs. Breitkopf & Härtel, Drs. Bischof, Brentano, Friedländer, Mandyczewski, Prieger, and many other important men. There are, in consequence, modifications and changes of no small import. It may practically be regarded as a new book, to which the old volume served as basis. Many small corrections and additions have been made without any comment. For the most part, however, changes are notified by foot-notes. The particular use made of the much-discussed 'Fischer Communications' requires a short explanation. Already in the year 1838 the question of erecting a monument to Beethoven was mooted. At that time Cæcilia and her brother Gottfried Fischer related to the many visitors who came to Bonn much of what they had heard from their parents and much of what they themselves remembered concerning Beethoven and his family. The sister-whose reminiscences of the early years of the tone-poet are of special interest-was born eight years before, the brother ten years after, Beethoven. Cæcilia lived until 1845, the year in which the monument was actually erected; Gottfried lived until 1864. They were strongly recommended to write down what they remembered, and they did so. Now these so-called 'Fischer Communications' were known to Thayer—nay, printed by him in an appendix to vol. i. in 1866. Dr. Deiters, however, considers that he underestimated their value, and after a serious study of them, and comparison of many statements made therein with other statements in old books, church registers, private documents, &c., although he came to the conclusion that, owing to the length of time which had elapsed since the events of which these good people wrote happened, and owing also to the vagaries of memory intensified by advancing age, there may be many exaggerations and even errors in

what they stated, he believes that the Fischers were thoroughly straightforward folk, and that many things in their narration may be accepted as true. Hence Dr. Deiters has selected and incorporated much of the 'Fischer Communications' into the text of the book, giving, also, the 'Communications' in complete form in an appendix, as was originally done by Thayer.

Thayer's chapter, 'Was hat Beethoven in Bonn komponirt,' has been practically re-written. Yet, even with all the information supplied by Nottebohm and other writers, uncertainty still reigns with regard to the music written by the composer before he left Bonn and went to Vienna. The three Pianoforte Trios (Op. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3), for instance, have been the subject of much discussion. Dr. Deiters sides with Nottebohm rather than with Thayer, but we are inclined to accept the early date of the latter. Sketches in an important 'Noti-rungsbuch' in the British Museum seem strongly in favour of Thayer; and, further, there is some reason for believing that all the sheets of this 'Notirungsbuch' known to Nottebohm. Those which he had seen were afterwards bound up with others which apparently he had not seen. Dr. Deiters's chapter is extremely interesting, and he discusses difficult questions in the fullest and fairest manner.

In speaking of Beethoven's ancestors, he adds two new names of great interest, inasmuch as one of them, Peter van Beethoven, was a painter and pupil of Abr. Genoels the younger (1689), and the other, Gerhard van Beethoven, was a sculptor. With regard to the so-called portraits of Beethoven's father and mother in the Beethoven Haus at Bonn, Dr. Deiters gives strong reasons for his declaration—we quote his words: "Es sind lebensvolle, fein ausgearbeitete Porträts; aber—Beethovens

Eltern sind es gewiss nicht."

In his preface Dr. Deiters refers to Thayer's resolve to describe Beethoven, the man, and to leave to others the appreciation of his art-work. And yet, as is easily understood, he could not always abide by his resolution; at times he was forced to speak of the music. Dr. Deiters, yielding and, we think, most wisely, to the suggestion of friends, has decided, especially in mentioning works little known or quite unknown, of which the present volume offers many instances, to add a "kurze Charakteristik."

An 'Allegro und Menuetto für 2 Flöten,' written by Beethoven shortly before his departure from Bonn (August 23rd, Abends, 1792) is here printed for the first time. The autograph is in the possession of Dr. Erich Prieger, of Bonn. There is also a facsimile from one of the quartets composed

by Beethoven in 1785.

Dr. Deiters is not only at work revising the second and third Thayer volumes, but he is also completing the unfinished life in a fourth volume, which cannot fail to prove of the deepest interest. And there is a further promise—for which all readers of Beethoven's life will be truly thankful—of an index to the whole work.

Musical Gossip.

The Queen's Hall New Year's Day concert attracted an exceedingly large audience. To the programme we have already referred as one not specially appropriate to the day; anyhow, it was popular. The rendering of the 'Pathétique' Symphony under the direction of Mr. Wood was excellent, yet, to be very critical, we do not think it was his best. The 'Good Friday' music from 'Parsifal' was beautifully played, Madame Marchesi sang Senta's ballad from the 'Flying Dutchman'; her conception of the song was highly dramatic, though her voice was not always strong enough successfully to dominate the heavy orchestration. On the other hand, she gave a noble rendering of 'Ombra mai fu' from Handel's 'Serse'; and Madame Marchesi also sang Prof. Parker's 'The lark now leaves his wat'ry nest,'' a naïve song, with characteristic orchestral accompaniment.

Oratorio performances in London are rare, and yet it is a form of art that should not be neglected. We have plenty of instrumental music, but little choral. We notice with pleasure that an "Oratorio Choir" has been formed at Brixton, the meetings taking place every week in Brixton Church. The works named for practice are, with one exception—Graun's 'Passion'—familiar. In course of time, however, perhaps some of Handel's neglected oratorios will be revived.

There is a short but sympathetic appreciation of the late Sir Arthur Sullivan, by Mr. V. Blackburn, in the new number of the Fortnightly. He is, at any rate, an intelligent admirer. His praise is not general; he can discriminate between the composer at his best, not at his best, and pandering at times to popular taste. The writer speaks, by the way, in reference to the worldly side of Sir Arthur's art-work, of Mozart as the only artist, to his knowledge, who was satisfied with art for its own sake. Surely the same might be asserted of Schubert!

'THE Battle of the Orchestra; or, the Resolution of some Violent Discords,' is the title of an "entirely new and original operetta" written by Mr. Bernard, the music being "composed and appropriated" by a group of musicians: Drs. Bridge, Cummings, Hiles, Hutchinson, Prout, Sawyer, and C. Vincent, and Messrs. O. Morgan. A. Page, J. L. Roeckel, and G. F. Vincent. This new operetta is announced for performance this week at the Conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians being held at Llandudno. It has been published, and alk profits resulting therefrom are to be in aid of the I.S.M. Orphanage. To describe the extremely clever fun-we may say foolery-of this operetta is out of the question; and were it possible it would be unprofitable. It loses. much of its point in this its vocal score shape, but even thus it is mirth-provoking. Charity will, of course, cover the multitude of appropriations made by some of the gentlemen named, among whom Dr. Prout is the chief sinner. His Duet (No. 6) is, indeed, all apprepriation from the great masters.

THE first number (October-December, 1900) of the second year of the Sammelbände der Internationalen Musik-Gesellschaft contains a solid article, 'Matthias Weeckmann und das Collegium Musicum,' by Dr. Max Seiffert. The importance of the earliest operas at Hamburg has been fully recognized, and the sacred works of Prätorius, Scheidemann, Reincken, and other important Hamburg organists of the seventeenth century have been duly appreciated, but Dr. Seiffert devotes his special attention to certain musicians, also to certain movements without the pale of the Church by which was prepared the musical soil whencesprang the Hamburg opera. He has much to say about Weeckmann (1621-1674), who, together with two distinguished amateurs,

founded the Collegium in 1668.—Dr. Hugo Goldschmidt contributes a valuable paper on the orchestra of the Italian opera during the seventeenth century, with interesting musical illustrations. An article by Herr Heinrich Pudor on the 'History of Finnish Music' introduces a subject on which little has hitherto been written. The characteristic folk-songs (runolaulua) are old, but the history of artistic music in Finland dates only from the nineteenth century. Among other articles there is one in English, signed Cecie Stainer, on 'Dunstable and the Various Settings of "O Rosa Bella,"' and a thoughtful one in French, 'De la Mesure à 5 temps dans la Musique Populaire Finnoise.'—The December number of the Zeitschrift der Internationalen Musik-Gesellschaft has a brief summary of the curiously intricate history of the well-known song, 'Tre giorni son che Nina,' by Mr. William Barclay Squire; also articles by Herren Hermann Abert, of Berlin ('Eine Nationalhymnen - Sammlung'), and Gustav Beckmann, of Eisen ('Robert Radecke').

Some autograph pieces by Chopin have been bequeathed to the library of the Paris Conservatoire by Mile. Gavard, who was a pupil of the Polish composer's. To this lady Chopin dedicated his Berceuse, Op. 57. She was one of those near the composer during his last illness. It was the brother of Mile. Gavard who, in a manuscript mentioned by Prof. Niecks, described in detail the last months of Chopin's life.

THE Swiss musician, Karl Markees, has been mominated to a professorship in the Königliche Hochschule für Musik in Berlin. Prof. Markees was educated at the Bâle Musikschule.

Le Ménestrel of December 30th announces the publication of the first volume of M. Modest Tschaïkowsky's biography of his brother. It traces the life of the composer up to the year 1877. It is described as "fertile en documents, en renseignements, et en anecdotes de toutes sortes."

The marriage of Fräulein Isolde von Bülow, daughter of the late Hans von Bülow, with Herr Beidler, conductor of the Bayreuth Theatre, has just been celebrated in that city.

HERR VON POSSART, general intendant of the theatres of Munich, a friend of many years' standing of the late conductor, Hermann Levi, has written his biography in a volume published by C. H. Beck, of Munich.

It is said that 'Mauru,' libretto by M. Nossig, music by M. Paderewski, will be produced in the spring at Dresden.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.

Sun. Sunday Society Concert, 3 30: Sunday League, 7, Queen's Hall.

Sat. Saturday Popular Concert, 3.0, 8t. James's Hall.

London Italiad Concert, 3, Queen's Hall.

DRAMA

Herod: a Tragedy. By Stephen Phillips.
(Lane.)

The Likeness of the Night. By Mrs. W. K. Clifford. (Black.)

Nothing is, of course, to be added to the criticism that has been passed upon 'Herod' as an acting play. It is greatly conceived, finely balanced, and subtle in suggestion; it furnishes fine opportunities to actors, is in the full sense a tragedy, and leads in the concluding act to a situation of great and in modern days unparalleled interest. As a poem its claims are somewhat less readily to be conceded. It abounds with vigorous and poetical lines, and is at once terse and eloquent in expression. It lacks, however, the sustained splendour, the breathless

haste, the melodic perfection that characterize the greatest dramatic poems. We are far from believing that these things are out of Mr. Phillips's reach. They are, one must hold, attainable, but scarcely attained. We are weighing Mr. Phillips against the best. In days when all idea of proportion seems abandoned by criticism, and when the writing of a 'Pélléas and Mélisande' entitles a man to be classed with Shakspeare, it seems necessary to draw distinctions. There is no man since Shakspeare who can convey the sense of beauty and purity that Iachimo expresses on his unholy intrusion into the chamber of the sleeping Imogen, none who can equal Portia's rhapsody when her lover chooses the leaden casket, provide us Othello's agony, or describe the flowers that Proserpine let fall from Dis's waggon-do anything, indeed, that Shakspeare does when the poet speaks. On a lower plane, however—and all are on a lower plane—there is in 'Herod' much admirable accomplishment. Single lines are often excellent in execution and pregnant in suggestion. The unrest that preceded immediately the coming of Christ is finely, if indirectly, indicated in the words of the young counsellor concerning Aristobulus : -

All behind him is
A sense of something coming on the world,
A crying of dead prophets from their tombs,
A singing of dead poets from their graves,

Herod, again, speaks nobly of the coming king who

shall still that old sob of the sea, And heal the unhappy fancies of the wind, And turn the moon from all that hopeless quest; Trees without care shall blossom, and all the fields Shall without labour unto harvest come,

A fine inquiry is that, again, of Herod after he has heard of the defeat of Actium:
Can ye not hear the legions on the wind?

The dialogue between Herod and Mariamne, in which the king finds that his murder of Aristobulus is known to her, abounds in happy lines. Very touching is, moreover, the scene in which, while depicting his interview with Octavius, he strives vainly to interest Mariamne in his tale. At the close of the same act Herod, conjuring up visions of what would be were his queen slain, says:

O terrible to live but in remembering!
To call her name down the long corridors;
To come on jewels that she wore, laid by;
Or open suddenly some chest and see
Some favourite robe she wore on such a day!

Among the dreams that visit Herod in the last act, when he returns from his wanderings, is that, long entertained, of the temple he purposes to erect:—

I dreamed last night of a dome of beaten gold To be a counter-glory to the sun. There shall the eagle blindly dash himself, There the first beam shall strike, and there the

moon Shall aim all night her argent archery; And it shall be the tryst of sundered stars, The haunt of dead and dreaming Solomon; Shall send a light upon the lost in Hell, And flashings upon faces without hope.

We have selected what seem to us the best passages in the work. At times it seems to lack originality of phrasing. With the brightest of poetical gifts—imagination—Mr. Phillips is at any rate to be credited. Lyrical perfection has yet to be attained.

Of the three plays dealing with the relations

Of the three plays dealing with the relations between wife and mistress which have seen the light within the last few months, 'The Likeness of the Night' is at once the most inflexible in teaching and the best. With the ethics of the question we are scarcely concerned. These constitute a field on which moralists may fight. In a play which is a veritable domestic tragedy Mrs. Clifford brushes aside all cobwebs of sophistry, and shows that the fruit of ill-doing is bitter as death. Her characters are average human beings, each of whom can advance a plausible defence for his conduct. Nothing in their relations is strained or unnatural. The offence committed is of daily occurrence, and is of a kind to which society is so far indulgent as to strive with all its might to keep its eyes shut. When the offence, to use the words of Dalilah, is

With aggravations not surcharged, Or else with just allowance counterpoised.

it seems pardonable, almost trivial. The penalty is, however, the heaviest that can well be exacted. Bernard Archerson, an ambitious barrister, has married for her money a woman concealing behind a prim and undemonstrative exterior a sensitive nature and extreme devotion to her husband. Pining for the kind of sympathy his wife is least able to supply, he has formed irregular relations with a former sweetheart. With her he maintains in a suburban residence quasi-conjugal relations, With her he maintains in a and by her he has a young family. Accident reveals to Mrs. Archerson the wrong that has been perpetrated. Without revealing her identity, she calls on her rival, and with no great difficulty extorts from her a defence of her conduct. Condensed and crystallized, the rival's defence is, "He was unfaithful to me when he married her. He was mine first." From the long conversation Mrs. Archerson learns with deep humiliation that she has neglected the most important of wifely duties, that another holds her place and is the mother of his children, and that never in this world will her husband's love be hers. Shecreeps away, and finally commits suicide. The manner of her death is picturesque, but unimportant, except in so far as it seems probably due to accident. That it is so is assumed by Archerson, who, after a due interval, presents to his world his second wife, a widow with two children, whom he has espoused. For a brief while there is peace. Guilt, however, in Hood's phrase, is the grim chamberlain, and the sleep of the wedded pair is haunted by dreams, or realities worse than dreams. After a delay extending over more than a year, a letter is received from the deceased woman owning that her death was voluntarily inflicted. This means an eternal separation between the lovers, who stand looking at each other aghast, with the knowledge that between them is a sea of death never to be sailed across or bridged. In this case, it is seen, it is the wife who retires, leaving the field to her false husband and her rival. In so doing she triumphs. Her victory has been foreseen. The last words she has addressed to her successor have been :-

"You think that what you are doing is right. It may be so. To me it seems the deepest sin. Which it is, God knows, and He will prove. For all people, and of all deeds, there comes a Day of Judgment. It will come of what you are doing—a day when all will be made plain. No one escapes; nothing is overlooked."

With this utterance has to be compared Bernard's utterance after the receipt of the fatal letter, when his new wife tells him he shivered, "I felt as if the wind crept in," and her final words :-

"I should never dare to love you again, if it were possible. I should be afraid. I am afraid now—[in a whisper]—afraid of a face sternly veiled by the water that passes over and over it: it is the face of the woman we killed. [Looks down in terror as if at the water.] there-there-I can see it, and the darkness gathering above it!

"Bernard [Desperately, as if struggling to go forward, and yet unable to do so]. Mollie——
"Mary [Pulting out her hands again with a gesture of despair]. Keep back! keep back! Between us flows the sea

This is powerfully conceived and rendered, and is none the less great on account of a trace of the influence of Ibsen. That the play, with Mrs. Kendal in the character of the wife and Mr. Kendal as Bernard, harrowed the public may readily be conceived. A drama on such a subject must necessarily be painful. It is not more painful than it ought to be, and it is not sordid, as is much work of our younger dramatists. It will be a bad, a hopeless day for our stage when work of this kind, which is dramatic in a high degree, which is imaginative in conception and pulsates with passion, is banished for fear of hurting the feelings of the sentimental.

Dramatic Gossip.

THE prologues spoken at the State performance at Paris on Saturday last for the reopen-ing of the Théâtre Français were better written than delivered. Mlle. Bartet was admirable as ever, but hardly looked the part of Tragedy, and Rachel would have laughed at the sight, though with closed eyes she might have wept. The "impromptu" address of M. Worms on behalf of the present full members of the company to the ex-members present was touching, as was M. Richepin's allusion to the death of Mile. Henriot in the fire, placed in the mouth of Mile. Bartet as the reason of Tragedy for heaviness of heart when all round were in joy.

MISS ALICE MARRIOTT, the wife of Mr. Robert Edgar, during many years manager of Sadler's Wells Theatre, died on the 26th ult. at 8, Bryanston Street, W., in her seventy-seventh year. After a varied experience in the country, she appeared at Drury Lane in December, 1854, as Bianca in 'Fazio,' and on January 1st, 1855, was the original Eugénie in Boucicault's drama so named. She also played at the Surrey, the Standard, and other houses, and was at the Princess's, on February 15th, 1862, the original Angel of Midnight in John Brougham's adaptation, so named, of 'L'Ange de Minuit' of Barrière and Plouvier. She was best known at Sadler's Wells, where, under the management of her husband, she played many leading parts, including Hamlet, in which she had first been seen in Glasgow. She revived 'The Duchess of Malfi,' and was seen in Shakspearean parts so widely different as Juliet and Lady Macbeth. Her Hamlet had as much success as so fantastic an experiment deserved, and was quite as meritorious as that of her Gallie or Batavian successor in the rôle. At the Lyceum in 1888 she was the First Witch in 'Macbeth,' and in 1890 Ailsie Gourlay in 'Ravenswood.' Her last perform-ance was the Vengeance in 'The Only Way' at the Prince of Wales's.

'THE MAN WHO STOLE THE CASTLE,' by THE MAN WHO STOLE THE CASTLE, by John C. Francis,
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which the afternoon performances at the Garrick begin, is a pretty fantasy, which the acting of two juvenile performers, Miss Beatrice Terry and Miss Queenie May, commends warmly to the public. 'Shock-headed Peter' is a rendering by Messrs. Philip Carr and Nigel Playfair of 'Struwwelpeter.' Such action in it as there is is supported by Miss Kate Bishop, Miss Kitty Loftus, Mr. Grossmith, Jun., Mr. Herz, and other actors.

According to the latest decision, Sir Henry Irving will reopen the Lyceum early next spring as Coriolanus to the Volumnia of Miss Ellen Terry. He is said also to contemplate the production of a play new to London.

By consent of Miss Estelle Burney, who has a right to the title, 'The Awakening' will be the title of the new piece by Mr. Haddon Chambers which will succeed at the St. James's 'The Wisdom of the Wise.

THE Hamlet of Madame Bernhardt has been treated less seriously in America than in England, and was productive of amusement rather than interest. Favourable opinions have been pronounced upon the Gravedigger of M. Coquelin, which so far has not been seen in this country.

A BRONZE tablet has been placed by the Duke of Bedford on the front of No. 27, Southampton Street, bearing a medallion portrait of David Garrick, over which lean two classic figures representing literature and the drama. The inscription states that David Garrick lived there from 1750 to 1772.

The career of 'The Gay Pretenders' finished on Saturday last at the Globe, and the house will remain closed until the 19th inst.

AT the Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool, Mr. Edward Compton produced on Tuesday evening 'An Emperor's Romance,' an adaptation by the author and Mr. Cosmo Hamilton of Mr. Robert Barr's novel 'The Countess

'JOHANNISFEUER,' by Hermann Sudermann, has constituted the Christmas entertainment of the German company at the Comedy. Last night this piece gave way to a revival of 'Faust.'

Mr. Forbes Robertson has secured a play by M. Louis Tiercelin, the author of 'The Sacrament of Judas,' which he hopes before long to produce in London. Among the gifts presented to him on his recent marriage with Miss Gertrude Elliott, his leading lady, were the English rights of 'The Sacrament of Judas,' which belonged to Mrs. Campbell and were given to Mr. Robertson by her.

To Correspondents -R. W. H.-G. P. B.-A. J. C.-R. F. S.-K. P.-received. G. H.-Not suitable for us.

A. C.-We cannot undertake to do this.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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